

VICTORY
SPORTS
SERIES

Inside

DUSTY RHODES: "THE FANS DON'T
KNOW THE HELL I GO THROUGH!"

May 1982

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Wrestling

ADRIAN ADONIS:
"I CAN BEAT BACKLUND . . .
I JUST CAN'T BEAT
THE SYSTEM!"



David Von Erich vs. Mike Graham:
THERE'S NO TURNING BACK



when I planned to **retire before**

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Starting with borrowed money, Duraclean gave me the opportunity for financial security... In eight years I sold out at a profit and retired.

"Not until I was forty did I make up my mind that I was going to retire before ten years had passed. I knew I couldn't do it on a salary, no matter how good. I knew I couldn't do it working for others. It was perfectly obvious to me that I had to start a business of my own. But that posed a problem. What kind of business? Most of my money was tied up. Temporarily I was broke. But, when I found the business I wanted I was able to start it for a small amount of borrowed money.

"To pyramid this investment into retirement in less than ten years seems like magic, but in my opinion any man in good health who has the same ambition and drive that motivated me, could achieve such a goal. Let me give you a little history.

"I finished high school at the age of 18 and got a job as a shipping clerk. My next job was butchering at a plant that processed boneless beef. Couldn't see much future there. Next, I got a job as a Greyhound Bus Driver. The money was good. The work was pleasant, but I couldn't see it as leading to retirement. Finally I took the plunge and went into business for myself.

"I managed to raise enough money with my savings to invest in a combination motel, restaurant, grocery, and service station. It didn't take long to get my eyes opened. In order to keep that

business going my wife and I worked from dawn to dusk, 20 hours a day, seven days a week. Putting in all those hours didn't match my idea of independence and it gave me no time for my favorite sport—golf! Finally we both agreed that I should look for something else.

"I found it. Not right away. I investigated a lot of businesses offered as franchises. I felt that I wanted the guidance of an experienced company—wanted to have the benefit of the plans that had brought success to others, plus the benefit of running my own business under an established name that had national recognition.

"Most of the franchises offered were too costly for me. Temporarily all my capital was frozen in the motel. But I found that the Duraclean franchise offered me exactly what I had been looking for.

"I could start for a small amount. (Today, only \$2988 starts a Duraclean dealership, and the company will finance the balance of the total \$9987 cash investment.) I could work it as a one-man business to start, and operate from my home. No office or shop or other overhead, no salaries to pay. Equipment would fit in my car trunk. (I bought the truck later, out of profits). Best of all, there was no ceiling on my earnings. I could build a business as big

fifty

a true story
by John B. Haikey



as my ambition and energy dictated. I could put on as many men as I needed to cover any volume. I could make a profit on every man working for me. And I could build little by little, or as fast as I wished.

"So, I started. I took the wonderful training furnished by the company. When I was ready I followed the simple plan outlined in the training. During the first period I did all the service work myself. By doing it myself, I could make much more per hour than I had ever made on a salary. Later, I would hire men, train them, pay them well, and still make an hourly profit on their time that made my idea of retirement possible—I had joined the country club and now I could play golf whenever I wished.

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"Well, that's the business I was able to start with such a small investment. That's the business I built up over a

period of eight years. And, that's the business I sold out at a substantial profit before I was fifty."

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INSIDE

Wrestling

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EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

Peter
King
Editor-in-Chief

A man tortured to the breaking point is a horrible sight. Bob Armstrong, one of wrestling's finest gentlemen, recently lost all control during a nationwide telecast. But it wasn't Armstrong's fault. He had been goaded and insulted past all limits by Roddy Piper.

For the past few months, Piper has served as color commentator on "Georgia Championship Wrestling." Piper has been harsh in his criticisms of Georgia's scientific wrestlers. But he has been rude and nasty in his comments on Bob Armstrong and especially Bob's son, Brad.

Recently, Bob took himself out of a scheduled tag team match and let Brad team with Jimmy Garvin. During that match, Piper taunted and teased the younger Armstrong, calling him a crybaby, a wimp, and a frightened little runt. Back in the TV monitor room, Bob Armstrong went berserk.

Armstrong ran down to the broadcast booth and attacked Piper. Soon, no less than 20 wrestlers tried to separate the two men. They might as well have been trying to put a bearhug on a hurricane. Piper and Armstrong slugged and kicked and punched each other while a horrified nationwide audience watched.

Finally, the two men were pulled apart. Piper was led from the ring screaming vengeance. Armstrong was quieted in the ring by son Brad. For a few brief moments, it seemed as if order had been restored, the explosion was over, the incident had ended.

But it was only the beginning. In an unprecedented proclamation, the NWA ordered a series of matches between Armstrong and Piper. "This must be settled in the ring," said NWA president Jim Crockett. The NWA has sanctioned uncontrolled bloodshed. Let the guilt be on its hands.

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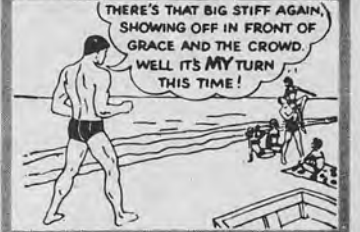


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MIAMI BEACH
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IT'S NOT SUCH a bad trip from New York to Missouri. I even figured I'd have the chance to escape some of this frigid winter weather we've been having, but the usual Peters luck was with me.

Out of the frying pan and into the fire, as the proverbialists say. More appropriately, it should be "out of the refrigerator and into the freezer." Two degrees below zero at night in St. Louis. My teeth would chatter themselves to dust, if only my jaw would thaw out.

Driving out of the Kiel Auditorium parking lot, my mind filled itself with visions of a lonely beach and the warmth of roasting to a golden brown under a blazing Hawaiian sun. A tall, slender Hawaiian girl strolled over to my blanket, smiled, and . . .

Smash! Right into a six-foot snowdrift. As my wheels spun in their place, I realized I was hopelessly stuck. There was no way I was going to get out of this one without help from somebody . . . anybody!

A large car rolled alongside me, stopped, and none other than Dick Murdoch stepped out. He wasn't what I would call sympathetic.

"Nice driving, Ace," he laughed, "what's your encore?"

"After I get myself out of here, I back up into a telephone pole," I replied. "How about some help? After you get me out of here, I'll spring for some brews."

Five minutes later, with the help of Murdoch, the Green Giant was out of the snowdrift. I knew Murdoch couldn't refuse free beers, and I was in no mood to go back to the hotel and sleep, anyway.

Three bowls of pretzels and as many pitchers of beer later, I asked Murdoch about his role as one of wrestling's top mercenaries.



Dick Murdoch can wrestle against Dusty Rhodes one day and then team up with him the next.

"What's the story?" I asked. "First you team up with Dusty Rhodes, then you're off on your own collecting bounties all over the place, now you're teaming with Harley Race. You change loyalties more often than most people change their socks. What gives?"

Murdoch took a pretzel nugget from the dish, threw it up in the air so that it almost hit the ceiling of the bar, and caught it in his mouth.

"Money," he said with a smile. "That's the name of the game. Got to put food in your mouth, got to keep the payments going on the house, the car, all of that, you know? Besides, it gives me a better cross-section of opponents to wrestle.

"Figure it this way," he continued as he took another swig from his mug, "I've wrestled against Harley Race, and I've wrestled with him as a tag team partner. How many

(Continued on page 49)



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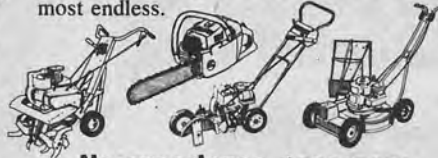
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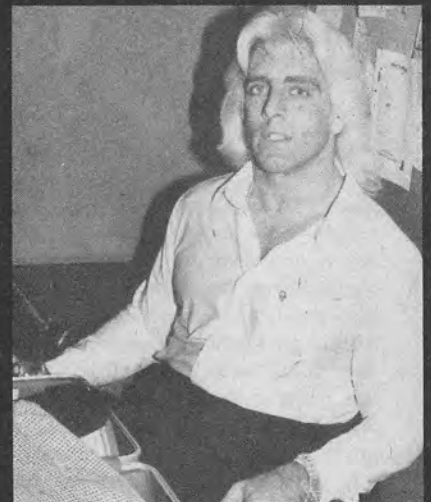
'TOP SECRET'

Behind the Dressing Room Door

by **Stu
Saks**

RIC FLAIR HAS no regrets about his life. Champions rarely do. When you're on top, the world is a fantasy. Like everyone else you have problems, but they don't matter as much. When you're on top, you can look at the world below you and laugh at the meaningless difficulties mere mortals face.

Ric Flair has problems, but his ego refuses to recognize them. As long as he holds the NWA title and the rest of humanity does not, he can sit back, put his feet on his desk, and convince himself that he is too great to concern himself with anything—except for what makes him great.



The anger begins to build in Ric Flair as he is questioned about his relationship with the Mid-Atlantic fans.

We had already spoken for over 30 minutes in his Charlotte, North Carolina, office and not once did Flair raise his voice above a whisper. I knew I had hit a sore spot when his loud, arrogant nature began to show itself.

I had already spoken to Flair about some pretty controversial subjects: his tainted victory over an injured Dusty Rhodes that brought him the NWA title, the

(Continued on page 50)

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Body Slams & Pinfalls

By Dan Shocket

AT THIS POINT, every title in the NWA is meaningless. One might as well melt down the belts and use them for doorstops.

With the kind of corporate cowardice for which he is famous, NWA president Jim Crockett stripped Ole and Gene Anderson of the NWA tag team belts. What no two wrestlers could do, Crockett decided he must. After all, it's dangerous for the Alliance to have tag team champions it can't control.

If Crockett had an ounce of self-respect, he'd be afraid to show his face in public. Yet, he is such an arrogant bully that he went on television to announce his decision. He was proud of his evil. He is to professional sports what a mugger is to street safety.

When Gene Anderson was injured and couldn't defend his title, Crockett decreed that Ole had to find a new partner and defend the crowns. Jim-Boob knows how difficult it is to train a championship tag team; he assumed Ole

would relinquish the belt rather than try. Instead, Ole, being a battler, got a new partner, Buzz Sawyer.

This upset the NWA bureaucracy no end. They realized Anderson and Sawyer could hold the titles forever. They also understood that Anderson and Sawyer wouldn't get up on their hind legs everytime some two-bit official said "Beg!" Still, they couldn't strip the pair of the title for no reason.



His idiotic expression is a true reflection of NWA president Jim Crockett's brains and integrity.

— Instead, they decided to take away the title over an invalid reason. With one sweep of their pen, they decreed that Anderson and Sawyer would have to defend their titles in a variety of locations. The travel was inhuman, designed to exhaust the pair and make them too tired to defend themselves. It was a cheap trick by a cheap group of thugs.

Anderson and Sawyer refused to follow the unfair schedule. They tried to reason with the NWA, which was impossible. Next, they even tried to follow the arduous schedule. When they realized this was humanly impossible, they refused to continue. It was the only sensible course of action.

It was also exactly what Crockett and his henchmen wanted to hear. Instead of discussing the situation, they immediately stripped the pair of the title. It was a disgrace to professional sports and could be a deathblow to the NWA.

As of today, NWA titles

(Continued on page 54)

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Witchcraft secrets like these can make you rich faster than anything else in the world! Here's how others have used them to make

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For centuries, these Witchcraft secrets were hushed up, so that those in power could stay in power! Feudal lords kept their bondsmen as slaves. Factory owners kept their employees in dreaded sweatshops, because these masters knew they must not allow their workers to realize that they need not labor their lives away. Witchcraft was suppressed because it works! Not because of any "evil" in it. If it hadn't worked, no one would have worried about it. If you want to gain power, all you need is this amazing Witch Book!

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• **THE WITCH'S BLACK MIRROR!**—Just as your TV set has been called your "window on the world," so the Black Mirror is your "window on the psychic world"—the world of the unknown. Making your own personal Black Mirror takes only a few moments and can open the way to unguessable visions. All you need is a bowl of water, some ink, and the chant on page 23. Suddenly you will see scenes from other places and times, or any scene you wish to see!

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- Inhaling Cosmic Energy!
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- How to Keep Evil Forces Away!

miracles happen in their daily lives!

You'll see how Vern, a man who likes to give a lot of expensive parties, was always short of cash until he discovered the amazing WITCH'S MONEY JAR—now all he has to do is dip in, for it brings him an endless flow of cash! Evelyn, a waitress, was always lending money to friends, and was always broke. Finally, she placed her last dollar on the table, and worked the MONEY MAGNET SPELL over it. All at once, dozens of people who had borrowed money from her, rushed to pay her back!

Hank was perpetually broke. One night he got together with some friends, and they decided to cast the MONEY SPELL. The very next day, Hank received in the mail a check for some \$250 worth of insurance. (He had never heard of the company that sent the check, he was not insured with them, and had never even made a claim—but he accepted the money.) Another member of the group that used the spell, a 40-year-old secretary, received an automobile as a gift! All the other members of the group received amazing windfalls of money, as well! You'll see how Dexter, a retiree, lives RENT FREE and receives \$200 a week at the age of 78, with a secret you'll find in this Witch Book! You'll see how Claudine, a secretary, was able to wear the finest, most expensive furs—FREE—and spend weekends at an expensive ski lodge in the mountains, where she met a wonderful man! How Ruth L., a widow—with nothing but a small pension, and a little savings—received her dream house, by using a simple 5-minute ritual on page 38 of this book!

Using the same Witchcraft secrets, YOU can achieve peace of mind and freedom from money worries for the rest of your life!

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Feeling sick today? Plagued by a lot of troublesome illnesses? Perhaps some relative is sick and constantly demanding your attention? Or perhaps it is even a pet that needs help! With the MAGIC POWER OF WITCHCRAFT, you can cure anything, say authors Gavin and Yvonne Frost: "In our experience... we have not found a single incurable disease!"

• **ANDY DISSOLVES A GALLSTONE!**—Andy M. developed gallstones. When his illness became too troublesome to ignore, he went to a doctor. Urine tests revealed that he was chronically alkaline. His body was badly out of balance. Using this Witchcraft method to restore balance to the mind and body—in a short while, X-rays showed that he had no more gallstones! Andy never again suffered the excruciating pain of passing stones!

In the same way, say Gavin and Yvonne Frost, almost all illness can be prevented. You are actually employing an ancient Witchcraft method to remove diseased tissue! Even if you do not have any belief in the results, the power will work for you!

One woman, who had been in a wheelchair for 26 years, due to polio and arthritis, used the Witchcraft healing method, and reported that she had no pain and could walk and garden again! A man reported that his son's deep 3rd degree burns miraculously healed overnight!

• **SO SIMPLE A CHILD USES IT!**—A 4-year-old girl asked if she could try to heal a man who was limping—due to a torn ligament—with this simple Witchcraft healing method. In a matter of moments, she started her chant, laying her hands on the weak ankle. The man was miraculously cured! To skeptics, this should be convincing PROOF that anyone can use it!

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• **HOW TO SEE INTO THE FUTURE!**—Would you like to be able to see the future? You CAN with the magic Black Mirror you'll see how to make on page 23. All you need is some ink and a bowl of water. Then use the chant on this page, and you will be able to see many things. One man uses it to read tomorrow's newspaper. YOU can use it to check the stock market or that important horse race!

• **MAKE TIME RUN BACKWARD OR FORWARD!**—A



MEET THE AUTHORS

GAVIN FROST, B.Sc., Ph.D., D.D., is Archbishop of the Church of Wicca, New Bern, North Carolina with national headquarters in Salem, Missouri, branches in several states and worldwide membership. He is Marshal of the Gold Star of England, with the right to wear the Saffron Robe and one of the very few Witches in the Western Hemisphere privileged to wear the authentic mark of initiation on his wrist. Although descended from a long line of mystics and scholars, and formerly a Vice-President and Director of International Operations for major aerospace companies, he prefers to be thought of as a humble teacher.

Mrs. YVONNE FROST, A.A., D.D., with her husband Gavin Frost, devotes her time to giving private instruction and publishing *Survival*, the newsletter of the Church of Wicca, of which she is a Bishop.

Articles by or about Gavin and Yvonne Frost have appeared in such national publications as *Midnight* and the *National Enquirer*.

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• **SECRETS OF SILENT PERSUASION!**—There is a magic handshake that Witches often use, revealed on page 62. With this secret, you can implant a thought in someone's mind! You can use this Witchcraft power to dominate others! Control your boss! Make someone love you! Leave your enemies groveling in the dust! There is even a gazing technique Witches use on page 45, for identical thoughts. With this secret, you can read your friend's mind and share his or her identical thoughts!

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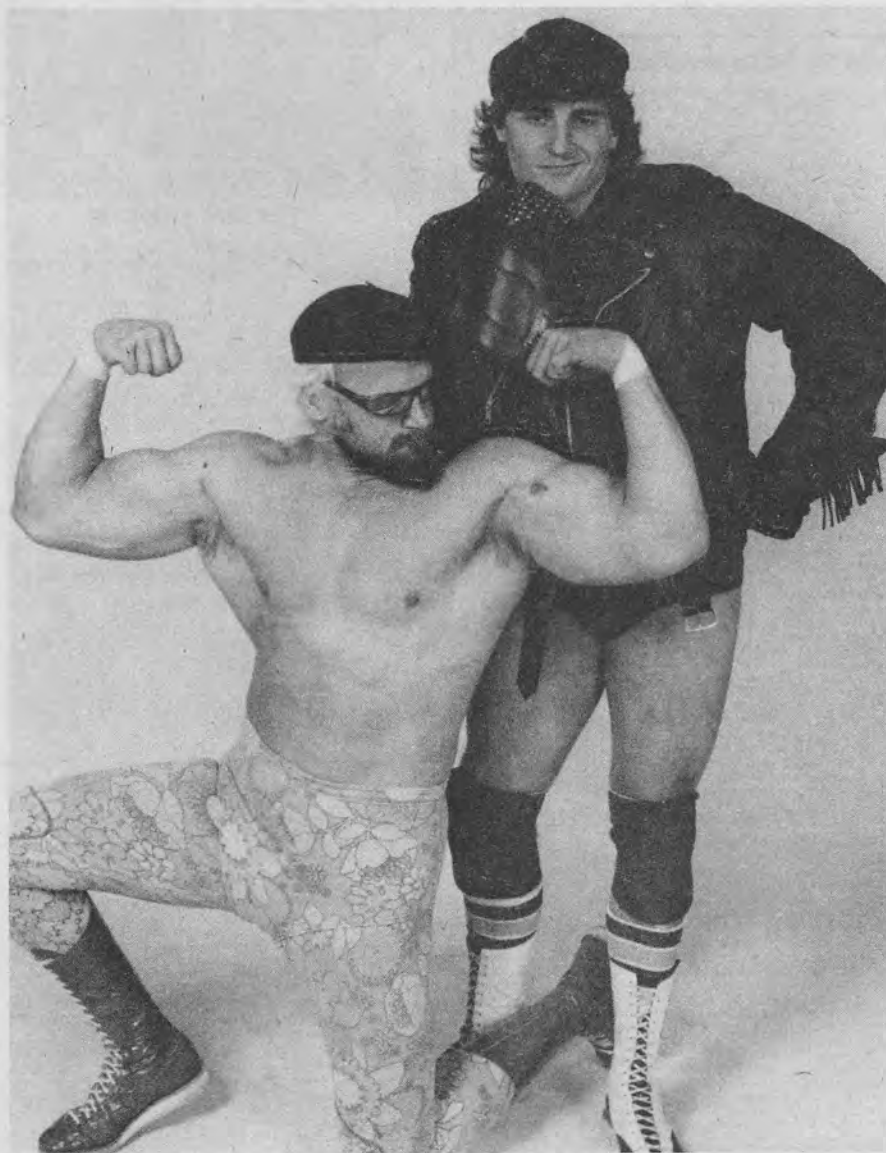
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THE **INSIDER**

BY RICH COUNTIS



Has Rich Countis scooped *Variety* and *Billboard*? Can it be that Jesse Ventura and Adrian Adonis will be the next stars of television's highest-rated program? Countis says yes, but ABC television has withheld any comment.

SCOOP OF THE MONTH

PREPARE YOURSELVES, Luke and Laura. Your new co-stars on *General Hospital*

may be Adrian Adonis and Jesse Ventura!

That's right, afternoon soapers. The frequent tag team may land a guest-starring role in the popular daily serial. The possibility of hamming it up

before the television cameras in a studio instead of between the ropes has the egotistical duo boasting and preening.

"How could they keep a hunk of a body like this off the screen?" Ventura bellowed, flexing his biceps. "It was just a matter of time before those big TV honchos begged me to appear."

Does this mean that he and Adonis will leave the violent world of wrestling for a cushy career in show biz? "Hell no, you imbecile," said Adonis, annoyed at what he termed a "moronic" question. "The purpose of starring in that soap is to get women interested in wrestling. The ladies will see how enticingly beautiful we are, hear that we're really wrestlers, and come out to see us do what we really do best, bash skulls in. It's just natural that they'll take a genuine interest in the sport after that."

The duo's appearance on *General Hospital* is still not definite. A spokesman for ABC declined to comment directly, but he did not make any denials, either. "The policy of our network is to withhold any comment concerning future appearances while contract terms are still in the negotiating stage," the spokesman said. "With regard to the men you seek information on, we are not at liberty to comment one way or the other."

(Continued on page 52)

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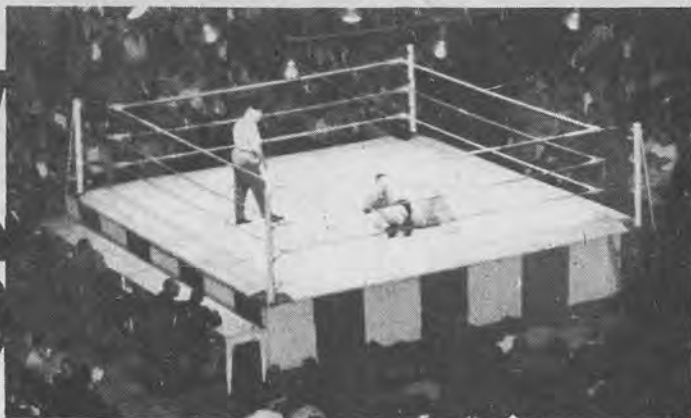
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MORE ROCK 'N' ROLL

I think your magazine has forgotten about one of the AWA's most popular wrestlers, Buck Zumhofs. Zumhofs started in the AWA over eight years ago after graduating from Verne Gagne's wrestling camp. He is becoming a contender for the title, having held his own with men like Bobby Duncum, Steve Regal, Bobby Heenan,



Buck Zumhofs is one of the most popular wrestlers in the AWA and deserves more coverage, writes Dave Van Spankeren.

and Jesse Ventura. He has also done well against Nick Bockwinkel, Mike Graham, Tito Santana, and Chris Markoff. He's tag teamed with the greats: Hulk Hogan, Brad Rheingans, Crusher, Greg Gagne, and Baron Von Raschke. I hope to see more of him in your great magazine.

DAVE VAN SPANKEREN
Green Bay, WI

POLISH PRAISE

I am writing to you to tell you it feels great to know that

"Polish Power" Ivan Putski is back in the WWF. I think he should direct his energy against Adrian Adonis, Greg Valentine, and Jesse "The Body" (haha) Ventura.

FREDDY CABASQUIN
Lebanon, PA

ROWDY RODDY SHOCKET?

I'm writing in response to the "Bodyslams and Pinfalls" column by Dan Shocket in your March 1982 issue.

Really now, is Dan's real name Roddy Piper? The drivel in his column about Bob and Brad Armstrong sounds exactly like the mouthings of Piper that the fans are subjected to on the *Georgia Championship Wrestling* program. Believe me, I've had enough of that to last a lifetime already!

Brad Armstrong seems to be the "quiet" type, in contrast to his father's more outgoing personality. That doesn't make him the complete idiot Shocket seems to think he is!

Please tell us all you can about the wrestlers we love to watch, but don't inflict on us the opinions of some pseudo-reporter whose opinion is so important to him that he has to voice it at any cost. If all Shocket worries about, as he lets on, is Brad Armstrong's career, he certainly isn't doing it much good by taking shots at his present, well-earned status.

D.M. KIRKLAND
Columbus, OH



Canadian champion Dino Bravo still has a loyal fan following in the United States, according to Travis Hutchinson.

MORE ON BRAVO

I was skimming through *Inside Wrestling's* "Names Makin' News" column, and I saw Dino Bravo's name. It was a short note about Bravo flying to Los Angeles. I appreciate the mention, but do you realize that it has been over a year since you've published a story on him? I'm a loyal fan of Dino Bravo, and I'm sure there are other fans of his who would like to read more on him.

TRAVIS HUTCHINSON
Waynesboro, VA

NEXT CHAMPION?

An open letter to "Pretty Boy" Larry Sharpe:

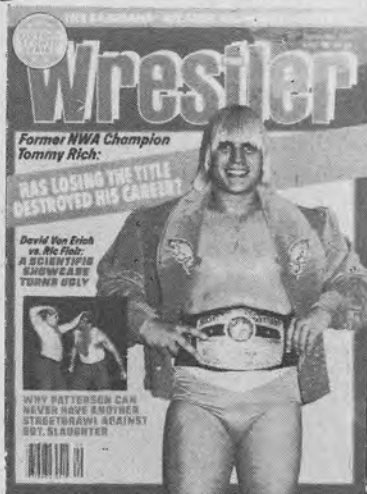
I have been admiring your wrestling ability for a long period of time. You have the ability to be a better wrestler

(Continued on page 62)

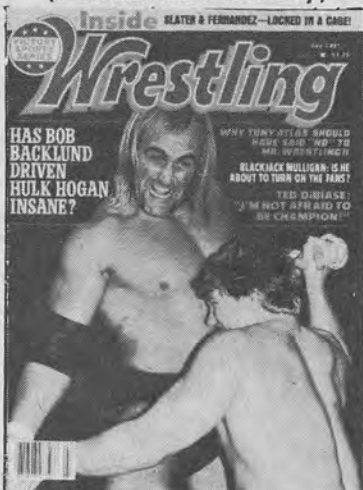
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NAMES MAKI



SNUKA & ALBANO

Bob Backlund is genuinely concerned about the challenge of **Captain Lou Albano's** newest protege, "Superfly" **Jimmy Snuka**. "I have never seen anything like him!" Backlund said as we viewed tapes of recent Snuka WWF battles. "His flying bodypress and flying headbutt are moves that you can't really find defenses for. He's quick, strong, agile—and mean!"

James J. Dillon wants to be known as "King James" from now on. It seems that J.J. stole the crown of **Jerry Lawler** and now considers himself royalty . . . **Rick McGraw** has returned to the WWF under the guidance of **Arnold**



JERRY LAWLER



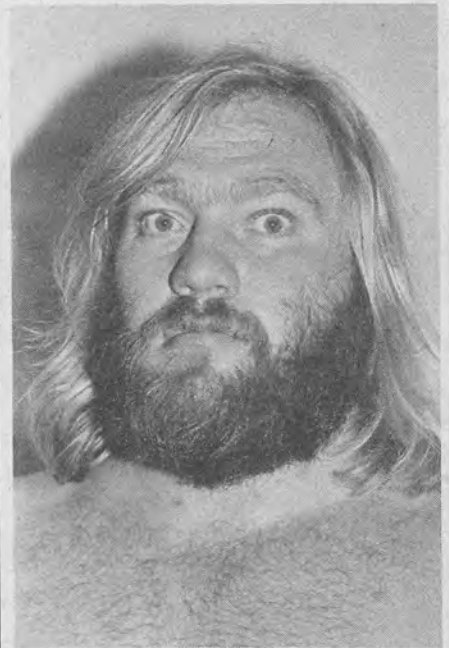
JUNKYARD DOG

Skoaland, **Bob Backlund's** manager. "I see a lot of promise in Rick," says Arnold. "He may be a future champion."

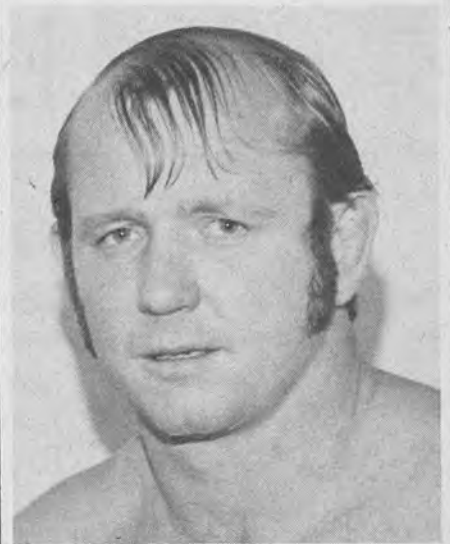
Junkyard Dog has a big feud brewing in Texas against **Gino Hernandez** and **Tully Blanchard**, the most notorious tag team the area has ever seen . . . **Randy Rose** and **Dennis Condrey** have taken their brutal brand of tag team wrestling to Tennessee . . . Florida has another rulebreaking tag duo on its hands, **Rick** and **John Davidson**.

International champion **Dory Funk Jr.** disagrees with the experts who say **Jack Brisco** has regained the greatness he showed in the '70s. "Brisco and I had some real heavy past few years. Put the old man out to pasture and give me some real challenges!"

NWA champion **Ric Flair** can't believe that **John Studd**, a man he has called "friend" in the past few months, is out to get him. "He doesn't just want the title, he wants to kill me!" Flair exclaims. "I can't trust anyone." Funny, we've heard **Rick Steamboat** say the same thing about Flair.



JOHN STUDD



DORY FUNK JR.

N' NEWS

Bill Apter
reporting...



BOB ARMSTRONG

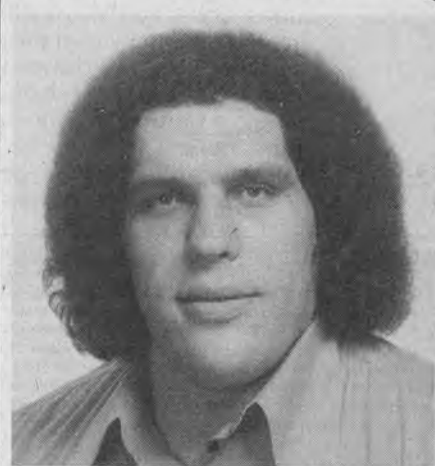
Bob Armstrong has had enough of **Roddy Piper** and his big mouth. Piper was being interviewed by **Gordon Solie** on *Georgia Championship Wrestling*, and, as usual, Armstrong was the main part of the discussion. In essence, Piper told Solie that Bob and his son were no-talent bums and went on to say that **Brad Armstrong** would be better off disowning his dad and letting Piper guide his career. At that point Bob Armstrong charged onto the set and attacked Piper. The brawl moved to the ring, where it took more than a dozen wrestlers to separate the antagonists. A series of bouts has been signed between the two to settle their differences.

Sweet Brown Sugar wrestled his idol **Mil Mascaras**. Although Sugar did not win this one, he tells us that it was a real thrill to go against the man he has always wanted to be like. Mil says that Sugar has learned a lot in the last few years and predicts he'll win a major title in the near future. By the way, Sugar is teaming with **Butch Reed** in Florida.

Bruno Sammartino Jr. is grappling in Oklahoma . . . **Dusty Rhodes** is making a bid to get a match against **Ted DiBiase** for Ted's North American title . . . **Jose Estrada** and **Johnny Rodz** wrote us a letter complaining that we under-



TED DiBIASE

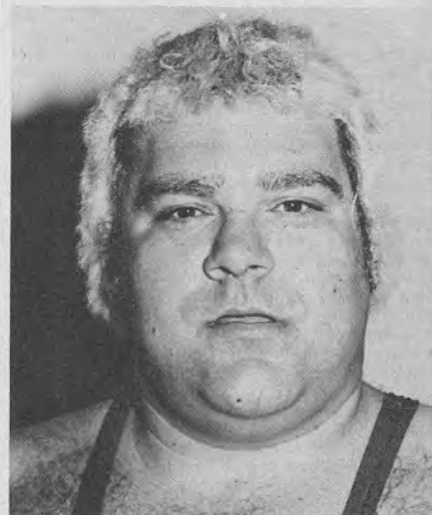


ANDRE THE GIANT

rate them. "We are as aggressive as any tag team in wrestling," Rodz scribbled. "Put us in your ratings because we deserve it. We could beat any team in your top 10."

Tommy Rich has been teaming with **Andre the Giant** in an effort to lift the Georgia National tag team belts from **Super Destroyer** and **Masked Superstar** . . . **Eddie Gilbert** is on a winning streak in the Midwest . . . After six months, Florida officials still refuse to lift the suspension on **Avalanche Tyler**.

That's all for now. See you at the matches! □



AVALANCHE TYLER

COLLECTOR'S CORNER

Some of the back issues in this ad have not been offered for sale for more than 25 years. All of these extremely rare magazines are from the personal collection of Stanley Weston, owner of the world's largest collection of wrestling memorabilia. This is indeed a once in a lifetime opportunity for the rare collector to finally own these highly treasured but until now elusive editions. Obviously, the supplies of these issues is very limited, and they will be sold on a first-come, first-served basis. It is for that reason we urge you to list substitute choices when you order. This will avoid time wasted writing back and forth should a particular issue be sold out. The prices quoted are based on the rarity of the issue and the amount of available copies. For fastest service, payment should be made by money order or certified check. While cash will be accepted, we cannot assume responsibility when it is sent through the mails. All sales are final and no exchanges will be made.

BOXING & WRESTLING

After five issues, **WRESTLING** magazine changed its name to **BOXING & WRESTLING**. Continuing its high standard in wrestling, the addition of boxing stories made it one of the most popular sports magazines of the '50s. Some of the back issues listed in this ad can be obtained now by the general public for the first time in more than 25 years. As you would expect, supplies are very, very limited.

JANUARY 1952 Boxing—Pep vs. Saddler, Gans vs. Kid Lavigne, Robinson vs. Turpin, Mickey Walker, Tricksters, Tony Janiro, Barney Ross's Record, Tex Rickard, Roland LaStarza, Leonard vs. Kilbane, Rocky Marciano, Ratings, Knockouts

Wrestling—Yvon Robert, Wrestling Whirl, Sky Hi Lee, Matches of the Month, Pacific Coast Championship, George Hackenschmidt, Indian Wrestlers, Ruffy Silverstein, Ratings, Londos vs. Shikat **\$25**

JUNE 1952 Boxing—Fights of the Month, Gil Turner, Max Schmeling, Jack Johnson, Ratings, Stillman's Gym, Chico Vejar, Flyweights and Bantamweights, Tex Rickard Story, Paddy DeMarco, Max Baer's Record

Wrestling—Lord Carlton, Ratings, Mars Bennett, Human Sides, Tony Lanza, Wrestling Whirl, Good Old Days, Whipper Watson, Matches of the Month, San Francisco Promoter Joe Malcewicz **\$25**

AUGUST 1952 Boxing—Highlights, Paddy Young, Sammy Mandell, Trainer Doc Bagler, Jack Dempsey, Keeny Teran and Gil Cadillac, Tex Rickard Story, Lew Tender, TV From Miami, From Knockdown to Victory, Ratings

Wrestling—Dirty Dick Raines, Good Old Days, Whipper Watson, How Girl Wrestlers Keep Fit, Ratings, Adrian Baillargeon, Wrestling Whirl, Matches of the Month, Mighty Atlas **\$25**

SEPTEMBER 1952 Boxing—Highlights, Fighting Italians, George Araujo, Pancho Villa, Trainer Charlie Goldman, Willie Troy, Ratings, Boxing Confidential, Gene Tunney, Jackie Fields

Wrestling—Bobby Managoff, Lou Thesz's Record, Ratings, Matches of the Month, Tim Geohagen, William Muldoon, Wrestling Whirl **\$25**

OCTOBER 1952 Boxing—Highlights (Walcott vs. Charles; Carter loses to Salas, etc.), Lauro Salas, Stanley Ketchel, Irish Champions, Chuck Davey, Max Schmeling, Ratings, Joe Miceli, Strange Experiences, Willie Pep tells about his loss to Sandy Saddler, Boxing Medicine Man Dr. Nardiello

Wrestling—Riki Dozan, Their Hardest Battles, Matches of the Month, Ray Gunkel, Tough Turks, Wrestling Whirl, Ratings, Record of Verne Gagne **\$25**

DECEMBER 1954 Boxing—Eddie Borden Editorial, Critics Talk, Matches of the Month, Cisco Andrade, Ezzard Charles writes about Marciano, Bare Knuckle Fighters, Tony DeMarco, Jimmy Braddock, Maxie Rosenbloom's Life, Paul Andrews, Tony Galento vs. Lou Nova, Benny Leonard, Quiz, Dempsey vs. Fred Fulton, Quiz

Wrestling—Bob Orton, Matches of the Month, Cowboy Carlson, Mars Bennett, California Champs, Al Costello, Wrestling Whirl, Gossip, Fan Clubs **\$25**

FEBRUARY 1955 Boxing—Eddie Borden Editorial, Critics Talk, Fights of the Month, Nino Valdez Says "I'll Beat Marciano," Billy Petrolle's Life, Carmen Basilio Challenges Johnny Saxton, Bare Knuckle Fighters, Lou Stillman, Jim Corbett vs. Joe Choynski, Jack Delany, Jack Johnson Compared to Modern Fighters, Why Black Fighters Are Tops, Quiz, Ratings, Jimmy McLarnin

Wrestling—Billy Varga, Ratings, Violet Viann, Verne Gagne, Speaks Out, Matches of the Month, Sonny Myers, Wrestling Whirl, Gossip, How To Start A Fan Club **\$25**

MARCH 1955 Boxing—Eddie Borden Editorial, Critics Talk, Fights of the Month, Kid Gavilan, Cisco Andrade, Eugene Criqui, Ratings, Writer Dan Parker, Best Heavyweight Of All, Charley Powell, Youg Griffo, Kid McCoy vs. Tom Sharkey, Willie Ritchie, Quiz, Pedro Montanez

Wrestling—Gorgeous George, Matches of the Month, Jack Witzig, Ike Eakins, Texas Tough Guys, Little Black Dynamite, Wrestling Whirl, Fan Clubs. **\$25**

APRIL 1955 Boxing—Eddie Borden Editorial, Critics Talk, Archie Moore Blasts Marciano, Robert Cohen, Joe Choynski's Life, Strike By Managers' Guild, Boardwalk Billy Smith, Ad Wolgast vs. Joe Rivers, Fake Fights, St. Nick's Arena, TV Fights of 1954, Paul Berlenbach, Quiz, Ratings **\$25**

JUNE 1955 Boxing—Eddie Borden Editorial, Critics Talk, Fights of the Month, Eduardo Lausse, Tony Canzoneri's Life, Tiger Jones and Bobby Jones, How Marciano is Managed, Lou Brouillard's Life, Bob Baker, Matchmaker Teddy Brenner, Ten Deadliest Punches, Tommy Ryan vs. Sandow, Ruby Goldstein, Ratings, Quiz

Wrestling—Yukon Eric, Pacific Coast Powerhouses, Billy Goetz, Wrestling Whirl, Manuel Cortez, Matches of the Month, Bob Geigel, Fan Clubs, Full Color Pinup of Billy Varga **\$25**

JULY 1955 Boxing—Eddie Borden Editorial, Critics Talk, Rocky Marciano Crushes Don Cockell, Fights of the Month, Chico Vejar, Tony Canzoneri's Life (conclusion), Carmen Basilio describes his war with Tony DeMarco, Fight Nite At St. Nick's, Jimmy Soo, Fantasy Fight with Joe Walcott, Ludwig Lightburn, Benny Leonard vs. Ever Hammer, Philadelphia Jack O'Brien, Ratings, Quiz

Wrestling—Tiger Joe Marsh, Matches of the Month, Timmy Geohagen, TV Stars, Yukon Eric Tells How To Build Muscles, Was Henri DeGlane a Nazi? Wrestling Whirl, Fan Clubs, Full Color Pinup of Frankie Talaber **\$25**

AUGUST 1955 Boxing—Eddie Borden Editorial, Critics Talk, Fights of the Month, Floyd Patterson, Tony DeMarco, Boxing's Mouthpiece, Mickey Walker, Joe Rowan, Fritzie Zivic batters Henry Armstrong, Fighting Irish, Joey Lopes, Sam Langford vs. Stanley Ketchel, Quiz, Luis Firpo, Ratings

Wrestling—Legs Langevin, Yukon Eric, Matches of the Month, Promoter Eddie Quinn, Most Dangerous Holds, Joe Cassius, Wrestling Whirl, Gossip, Full Color Pin Up Of Leo Nomellini **\$25**

SEPTEMBER 1955 Boxing—Eddie Borden Editorial, Critics Talk, Fights of the Month, Rocky Castellani, Promoter Jim Norris, Fight Afternoon, Rudy Garcia, Abe Attell, Billy Graham Quits, Terry McGovern vs. Pedler Palmer, Pat McMurry, Al Singer, Willie Jackson, Ratings, Quiz

Wrestling—Leo Nomellini, Do Black Wrestlers Get Fair Shake? Matches of the Month, Crazy Kalmikoffs, Hans Schnabel, Wrestling Whirl, Al & Tiny Mills, Gossip, Wrestling Strinks! Full Color Pin Up of Big Bill Miller **\$25**

OCTOBER 1955 Boxing—Eddie Borden Editorial, Critics Talk, Fights of the Month, The Real Marciano, Frankie Carbo, Carmen Basilio, John L. Sullivan vs. Charley Mitchell, Carmelo Costa, Jack Dempsey (Part 1), Paddy Young, Archie Moore, Joe Benjamin, Ratings, Quiz

Wrestling—Hans Herman, Matches of the Month, Strangler Lewis, One World's Title! Sky Hi Lee, Wrestling Whirl, Kamikaze Kinji, Hans Schmidt, Full Color Pin Up of Lord Blears **\$25**

NOVEMBER 1955 Boxing—Eddie Borden Editorial, Critics Talk, Marciano Kayoes Archie Moore, Fights of the Month, Willie Pastrano, What Made Dempsey A Killer? 'Bud' Smith, Yama Bahama, Joe Gans vs. Rufe Turner, Strategy, Tony Puleo, Great Trainers, Ratings, Johnny Dundee, Johnny Kilbane, Quiz

Wrestling—Riki Dozan, Matches of the Month, Don Arnold, Colorful Characters, Hindu Wrestlers, Chris Tolos, Malcolm Brenner, Full Color Pin Up of Pat O'Connor **\$25**

JANUARY 1956 Boxing—Eddie Borden Editorial, Critics Talk, Fights of the Month, Joey Giambra upsets Bobo Olson, Joe Lynch, Ray Drake, Mystery of Joe Walcott Solved, Training Camps, Jimmy Slattery, Chris Christensen, Bare Knuckle Brawl-Tom Johnson vs. Isaac Perrins, Pete Sarron, Charley White, Ratings, Quiz

Wrestling—Why Women Wrestle, Wrestling Whirl, Bill Fletcher, Ivan Padubny, Bearded Wrestlers, Matches of the Month, Art Michalek, Gossip, Fan Clubs **\$25**

MARCH 1956 Boxing—Eddie Borden Editorial, Critics Talk, Fights of the Month, Chuck Spieser, Isaac Logart, Ratings, Luis Firpo's Life, Raton Macias, Jim Jeffries vs. Ji Corbett, Tiger Jones, Boxing Lesson, Review of 1955, Frankie Genaro, Quiz

Wrestling—Leo 'The Lion' Newman, Matches of the Month, Doc Gallagher, Terrible Turk, Breast Cancer and Girl Wrestlers, Barefoot Wrestlers, Wrestling Whirl, Gossip, Wives of Wrestlers **\$25**

APRIL 1956 Boxing—Eddie Borden Editorial, Critics Talk, Fights of the Month, Carmen Basilio, Commissioner Helfand, Pete Herman, Regaining Titles, Bobby Boyd, Ace Hudkins' Life, George Dixon vs. Solly Smith, Joe Benjamin, Louis 'Kid' Kaplan, Quiz **\$25**

MAY 1956 Boxing—Eddie Borden Editorial, Critics Talk, Fights of the Month, How Floyd Patterson Will Fight Marciano, Ray Robinson's Problems, Jackie 'Kid' Berg's Life, Yama Bahama, 'Kid' Lavigne, Combating TV, Sam Langford, Bob Murphy, Boxing Lesson, Carl Tremaine, Ratings, Quiz

Wrestling—Rocca, Ada Ash, Matches of the Month, Old Timers, Prince Maivia, Wrestling Whirl, Jerry Graham, Red Bastien, Gossip **\$25**

JUNE 1956 Boxing—Eddie Borden Editorial, Critics Talk, Fights of the Month, Cisco Andrade, Ludwig Lightburn, Remembering Chicago, Tony Zale's Life, Rory Calhoun, Quiz, Ratings, Tom Sharkey vs. Peter Maher by Jim Corbett, Aurelio Herrera, Dave Shade, Readers' Gripe

Wrestling—'Hard Boiled' Haggerty, Wrestling Whirl, John Pesek, Killer Kowalski, Texas Hot Spot, Powerhouses, Matches of the Month, Fan Clubs, Gossip **\$25**

JULY 1956 Boxing—Eddie Borden Editorial, Critics Talk, Fights of the Month, Rocky Marciano, Max Schmeling's Life, Johnny Saxton, John L. Sullivan, Miguel Berrios, Larry Boardman, Quiz, Ratings, Joe Gans vs. 'Elbows' McFadden, Hollywood Legion Stadium, Ritchie Mitchell

Wrestling—Lord Blears, Matches of the Month, Mexican Stars, Ramona TeSelle, Danno O'Mahoney, Wrestling Whirl, Roy Shire, TV Wrestling, Gossip **\$25**

AUGUST 1956 Boxing—Eddie Borden Editorial, Critics Talk, Fights of the Month, Tony DeMarco, Bob Fitzsimmons, vs. Peter Maher, Cheril Hamia, John Holman, Jess Willard's Life, Bucking TV, Johnny Summerlin, Joe Choynski, Earl Mastro, Ratings, Bob Armstrong, Quiz, Gossip

Wrestling—George Drake, Wrestling Whirl, Chief Kit Fox, Matches of the Month, Yvon Robert (Part 1), Why Wrestlers Bleach Their Hair, Bob Geigel, Gossip **\$25**

OCTOBER 1956 Boxing—Eddie Borden Editorial, Critics Talk, Fights of the Month, Willie Pastrano, Henry Armstrong's Life, Archie Moore, Jimmy McLarnin, Charley Joseph, Jim Jeffries, Jimmy Soo, Boxing Lesson, Kid Chocolate, Ratings, Quiz, Letters

Wrestling—Don Leo Jonathan, Wrestling Whirl, Fred Blassie, Billy Varga's Wife, Dangers of Wrestling, Yvon Robert (Part 3), Matches of the Month, Letters, Fan Club **\$25**

NOVEMBER 1956 Boxing—Eddie Borden Editorial, Critics Talk, Fights of Month, Tony DeMarco, Art Aragon, Mario D'Agata, Tony Anthony, King Levinsky's Life, Johnny Busso, Joe Louis vs. John Henry Lewis, Ken Overlin, Ratings, Lockport Jimmy Duffy, Kid McCoy vs. Jim Stewart, Quiz
Wrestling—Bobby Managoff, Around the Circuit, Slave Girl Moolah, Ratings, Matches of Month, Yvon Robert (Part 4), George Hubert, Fan Clubs, Letters \$25

DECEMBER 1956 Boxing—Eddie Borden Editorial, Critics Talk, Fights of Month, Gene Fullmer, Jack Dempsey vs. Billy Miske, Harold Carter, Tex' Class Fights, Jinx of College Fighters, Barney Ross vs. Jimmy McLarin, Alex Miteff, Eddie 'Babe' Risko, Leonard Del Genio, Frank Battaglia, Ratings, Letters
Wrestling—John Paul Hennig, Wrestling Whirl, Rose Roman, Tag Team Situation, Matches of Month, Jim Wright, Bull Montana's Wife, Are Fans Crazy? Letters \$25

JANUARY 1957 Boxing—Eddie Borden Editorial, Critics Talk, Fights of Month, Carmen Basilio, Fighter of Year, Mike Gibbons' Life, Predicting the Champs in 1957, Joe Brown, Greatest Lightweights of All Time, Stanley Ketchel, Boxing Lesson, Tommy Loughran beats Jim Braddock, Bill Brennan, Ratings, Quiz, Letters
Wrestling—Carl Engstrom, Greatest Champions of All Time, Bronko Nagurski, Matches of Month, Johnny Barend, Wrestling Whirl, Tito Carreon, Comparing Old and New, Letters \$30

SEPTEMBER 1957 Boxing—Stanley Weston Editorial, Letters, Fights of Month, Tony Anthony, Benny Leonard Kayoes by Frank Fleming, Alphonse Halimi, Peter Jackson, Willie Pastrano, Gene Tunney, Billy Ryan, Triple Header; Harry Greb beats Mickey Walker, Dave Shade Kayoes Jimmy Slattery, Harry Walls Stops Charley Weinert, 'Knockout Brown', Tom Sayers, Stanley Ketchel's Life in Pictures, Critics Talk, Ratings
Wrestling—Wrestlers Highest Paid, Killer Kowalski, Results of Month, Hard Boiled Haggerty, Letters, Fan Clubs, Facts Behind Wrestling Boom \$35

JANUARY 1958 Boxing—Stanley Weston Editorial, Critics Talk, Fights of Month, Jimmy Braddock vs. Tommy Farr, Floyd Patterson, Johnny Kilbane, Mike O'Dowd, Chalky Wright, Carmen Basilio, Jimmy Wilde's Life, World's Ten Best Fighters, Quiz, Fighters Turned Actor, Bobing Lesson, Bare Knuckle Feature, Leach Cross Kayoes Young Otto, Letters, Remember When, Ratings
Wrestling—Ricki Starr, The Bruiser, Canadian Trail, Fan Clubs, Letters, Matches of Month \$25

FEBRUARY 1958 Boxing—TV Jottings, Letters, Fights of Month, Louis vs. Marciano, Robinson vs. LaMotta, Walcott vs. Charles, Pep vs. Saddler, Basilio vs. DeMarco, Light Heavyweight History, Punch that Shocked World (Jack Sharkey Foul's Max Schmeling), Preview of 1958, Born Killer (Fiction), Britain's Boxing Booths, Ray Robinson's Career in Pictures, Picking Winners, Quiz, Gene Tunney-Georges Carpentier Feud, Al McCoy, Critics Talk
Wrestling—Mickey Gold, The Garibaldis, Smith Brothers, Gypsy Joe, The Gallaghers, How Women React to Wrestlers, Photo Highlights, Results of Month, Fan Clubs \$25

APRIL 1958 Boxing—Stanley Weston Editorial, Letters, Fights of Month, Ratings, Carmen Basilio—Fighter of the Year, Complete Review of 1957 featuring Records, Results, Weights, Photos (Eight Pages), Bob Fitzsimmons, History of the Middleweights, Kid Chocolate Beats Fidel LaBarba, John L. Sullivan's Life, Barney Ross' Book, Remember When
Wrestling—Wrestlers in Movies, Sexiest Girl Wrestlers—Penny Banner and Barbara Baker, Predictions for 1958, Is The Champion Lou Thesz or Ed Carpentier? Sellout at the Garden, Photos of Month, Results of Month \$25

WRESTLING REVUE

WRESTLING REVUE (1959-1964) is thought to be the finest series of wrestling magazines ever published. These beautiful editions (all edited and published by Stanley Weston) set a standard by which all of today's wrestling magazines are judged. The magnificent back issues in this ad, many of which contain spectacular full-color inserts, have been unavailable to the public for more than 10 years. Supplies of these collector's treasures are very limited.

FALL 1960 \$35
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BOXING ILLUSTRATED- WRESTLING NEWS



ever published. Most of the very rare issues listed below have not been offered for sale in almost 20 years, and they are among the most highly prized Collector's Issues of all time.

In November 1958 Stanley Weston launched **BOXING ILLUSTRATED- WRESTLING NEWS**, which established an entirely new concept in the field of boxing and wrestling magazines. They consisted of about 65 percent boxing and 35 percent wrestling in content of the finest writing and photographs

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 NOVEMBER 1964 \$40

TV BOXING



two years, it established itself as a milestone in the field of boxing magazines. The extremely rare issues listed below have not been offered for sale since 1954.

To meet the public's growing hunger for up-to-the-minute information generated by regular boxing matches shown on the new television medium, Stanley Weston created a new magazine in 1953 to meet the demands. TV BOXING was unique in every way, and while its life's span was less than

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1953 BOXING ANNUAL



We guarantee that this fabulous 1953 Boxing Annual will turn back the clock and make you feel like you are living in those times; thrilling to the unforgettable performances of some of the greatest fighters who ever lived. This was the first Boxing Annual ever published, and to this day it still retains its title: The Best of All Time—The Champion of Champions! \$50

This cherished collector's issue consisted of 100 pages of seemingly endless photographs, statistics and complete records of the leading fighters of the day: Marciano, Robinson, Gavilan, DeMarco, Carter, Saddler, Moore. The list goes on and on. And well over 100 great pictures, some in a glowing red tint.

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Matt Brock's **PLAIN SPEAKING**



CRUSHER BLACKWELL

MINNEAPOLIS, MN: Snow. Lots of it. Too much to let the planes out of their hangers. As I sat in the Aerolounge contemplating what to do next, 478 pounds of Crusher Blackwell sat next to me. "This is bad, Matt, very bad." Blackwell was not pleased at all by the blizzard conditions outside, realizing that his latest match with Dewey Robertson would have to be cancelled. "I can't step into the ring with that runt soon enough. This blizzard is really cramping my style." Some runt. Take half of Blackwell's weight, add a single pound, and you've got Dewey Robertson. I guess he's a runt to Blackwell, but at 240, I wouldn't want to get on the wrong side of Robertson. If I were Dewey, though, I'd be hoping for more snow.

TAMPA, FL: J.J. Dillon is at it again. Oh, right, I forgot, sorry J.J., now it's supposed to be "King James" Dillon. Seems Dillon and Jerry Lawler were at the Bayfront Arena and J.J. stole Lawler's crown. That's the one, the Jerry Lawler "King of Wrestling" headpiece. Anyway, the point of all this is that King James has one more subject under his considerably less than royal thumb. The new goon in the organization is the Iron Sheik, as Dillon prefers to call him, but you probably know him by his full moniker: Hussein "The Iron Sheik" Arab. Dillon is one classless character, and the arrival of Hussein can only prove to be trouble for the entire state.

ATLANTA, GA: I was here, but I almost wish I was at home watching this on television. It must have made a hell of a shot on the screen: dozens of wrestlers running out of the dressing rooms all trying to separate Bob Armstrong and Roddy Piper. I couldn't hear what Piper was saying, but it must have been something pretty snide about the Armstrongs. Next thing I know here comes Bob running down the pike with all guns drawn.

Harder than nails, veteran wrestling reporter Matt Brock has logged more miles covering wrestling than any other journalist. Every month Matt will travel to the sport's hotbeds, reporting everything he sees without fear or favor



LOU ALBANO

Next thing after that, it looks like the biggest Battle Royal in history as a free-for-all erupted with everyone siding with either Piper or Armstrong. I've been around the block a few times, as they say, and I've seen it all . . . at least I *thought* I'd seen it all until this little square dance. **MONTREAL, CN:** "It's nice up north, but there's something missing." So says Canadian champion Dino Bravo. This veteran of the ring has been carving a place for himself in Canadian wrestling history lately, much to the dismay of American wrestling fans who would like to see Bravo make a triumphant return to their local arenas. "I love the fans up here," says Bravo, "and of course being champion is any wrestler's dream, but I've got to admit that I really would like a shot at Backlund's WWF title." I think a match between Bravo and Backlund would be one of the great scientific face-offs of all time, and I hope anyone who would be involved in the venture gets the lead out and does something about it.

NEW YORK, NY: I was beginning to have some faith, believe it or not, in Captain Lou Albano. After all, Fuji and Saito have something, they have a style that is totally unlike anything The Moondogs or The Samoans . . . they're almost legitimate! Anyway, Albano seems to have reverted to his old ways. Instead of bringing in another tag team, though, it's a lunatic loner who claims that he's going after the WWF championship belt around the waist of Bob Backlund. Call me skeptical (go ahead, say it . . . there, doesn't that make you feel better?), but I don't think Jimmy Snuka can even come close to matching someone like Adrian Adonis, much less Backlund himself. Sorry, Captain, this one looks like a no-go from the start. You'd better stick to tag teams. □

NEWS FROM THE

If you would like your area of the country represented in these reports, while also being officially credited with your own by-line, send us reports of the matches you attend. You will have the thrill of seeing your name in an internationally known magazine while at the same time helping to improve the quality of wrestling in your area. So why not give it a try? You will be glad you did!

Send your reports to: Correspondent Editor, Box 48, Rockville Centre, N.Y. 11571

STATEN ISLAND, NY

By Jon Kravitz



GREG VALENTINE
vs.
PEDRO MORALES

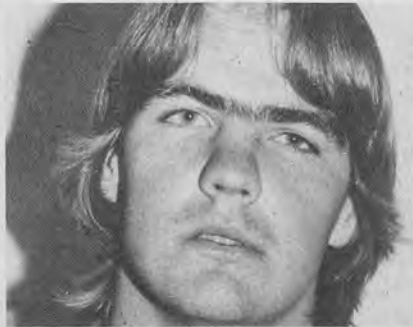


What a night for wrestling it was at the Holy Child Forum! In this bout, Valentine and Morales started to wrestle even before the bell rang. The match was even for the first five minutes until Valentine started using dirty tactics to weaken Morales. Then Valentine attempted to use his feared figure-four leglock. Before he could complete it, Pedro struck at Valentine head first and knocked the wind out of him. The match became so brutal after that, it had to be stopped by double disqualification.

OTHER BOUTS: Bob Backlund defeated Killer Khan . . . Ron Shaw was downed by Curt Hennig . . . Bulldog Brower cheated past Johnny Rodz.

GREENVILLE, SC

By Danny Staton



B. MULLIGAN JR.
vs.
SGT. SLAUGHTER



The U.S. title of Sgt. Slaughter was at stake in this main event Lumberjack Match. As the match started, Slaughter attacked with brute strength, throwing Mulligan through the ropes several times so that the 12 wrestlers surrounding the ring would have to throw him back in. Mulligan soon gained the advantage and had Slaughter on the run, picking him up for a bodyslam, and then going to the top rope to finish the job. He was tripped from outside the ring, however, by Jim Nelson. After that, Slaughter's tactics got him disqualified and he retained his title.

OTHER BOUTS: Leroy Brown was downed by Ole Anderson . . . Jim Nelson beat Tim Horner.

SALISBURY, MD

By Jeff Evans



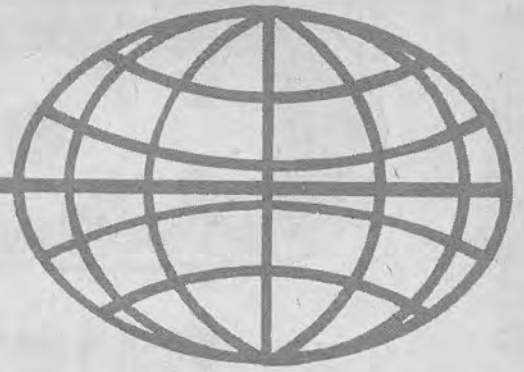
TONY ATLAS
vs.
KILLER KHAN



These wrestlers had some heated words before the match, but Atlas definitely had the fan support. Khan got off to an early advantage, and it looked like curtains for Tony when the Mongolian madman jumped high in the air for a deadly kneedrop. Suddenly, Atlas moved out of the way and Khan's knees slammed the mat with a tremendous thud. In pain, Khan fled from the ring to the safety of his dressing room.

OTHER BOUTS: Adrian Adonis and Jesse Ventura got past Tony Garea and Rick Martel . . . Steve Travis downed Johnny Rodz.

WRESTLING CAPITALS



BATON ROUGE, LA

By John Kahl



JUNKYARD DOG
vs.
HUSSEIN ARAB



This main event was a special Dog Collar Match. When the Dog got into the ring with the collar, Arab was hesitant to put his on, and the referee had to place it on his neck. From the start, the Dog controlled the match with fists and headbutts. Then the Sheik took the advantage and had Junkyard on the verge of defeat. He was on the top rope when the Dog yanked his collar and Arab fell to the mat. Dog bloodied him and went on to win the match.

OTHER BOUTS: The Samoans defeated Brian Blair and Frank Monte . . . Ted DiBiase dropped a shocking loss to Bob Roop . . . Dick Murdoch won over Bob Orton Jr.

CHARLOTTE, NC

By Russ Williams



JOHNNY WEAVER
vs.
LORD AL HAYS



The time had finally come for these two arch rivals to meet in the ring. Everyone in the Park Center knew it would be wild. Neither wrestler could gain a clear advantage, and after about 10 minutes, Weaver whipped Hays into the turnbuckle. Hays took a metal object out of his tights, but Weaver was prepared, retrieving the weapon. Hays got scared and retreated to his dressing room.

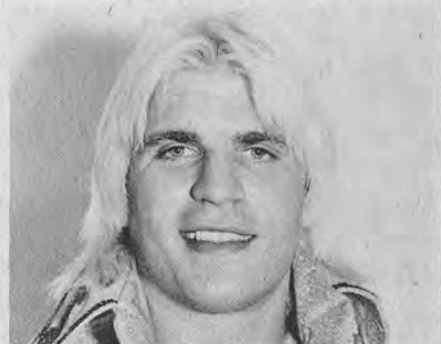
OTHER BOUTS: Ric Flair defended his NWA title against Big John Studd . . . Blackjack Mulligan Jr. and Sr. turned back Jim Nelson and Sgt. Slaughter . . . "Pork Chops" Cash and Bad Leroy Brown whipped Carl Fergie and Ox Baker.

ATLANTA, GA

By Steve Hendrix



MASKED SUPERSTAR
vs.
TOMMY RICH



This was a violent Steel Cage Match culminating two weeks of tension as Masked Superstar's National heavyweight belt went on the line. Former National heavyweight champ Tommy Rich needed some insurance against the interference of Super Destroyer ever since Destroyer and Superstar switched off to take Tommy's title. The steel cage offered that protection, and Bad Leroy Brown had the key as an added measure. The match was brutal, bloody and rough, but Rich overwhelmed Superstar to recapture the title.

OTHER BOUTS: Jim Garvin stopped Kevin Sullivan . . . Bob and Brad Armstrong downed Ron Bass and Super Destroyer.

HOTSEAT

DUSTY RHODES: "THE FANS DON'T KNOW THE HELL I GO THROUGH!"

INTERVIEW CONDUCTED
BY PETER KING

WHEN HE HELD the NWA title for only five days, he was the butt of many jokes and much criticism. Later, he proved many of his critics wrong when he bested Harley Race to regain the championship belt once again, holding it for over three months. When Ric Flair ended his second title reign, many people felt he would never be heard from again. Indeed, there are a great number of observers who believe he has faded from popularity and activity in wrestling. He wishes to once again prove his critics wrong. He is Dusty Rhodes.

Q: Well, Dusty, I guess a good place to start would be with Ric Flair. What do you think of him as champion?

A: Cheap, very cheap, Peter. Not a cheap question, but a cheap champion. Hell, it amazes me that Flair still has the title. By

all rights, Tommy Rich should be champion, because he pinned Flair when he substituted for me, but that's a story I've been over too many times to rehash once more. All in all, Flair's been

“

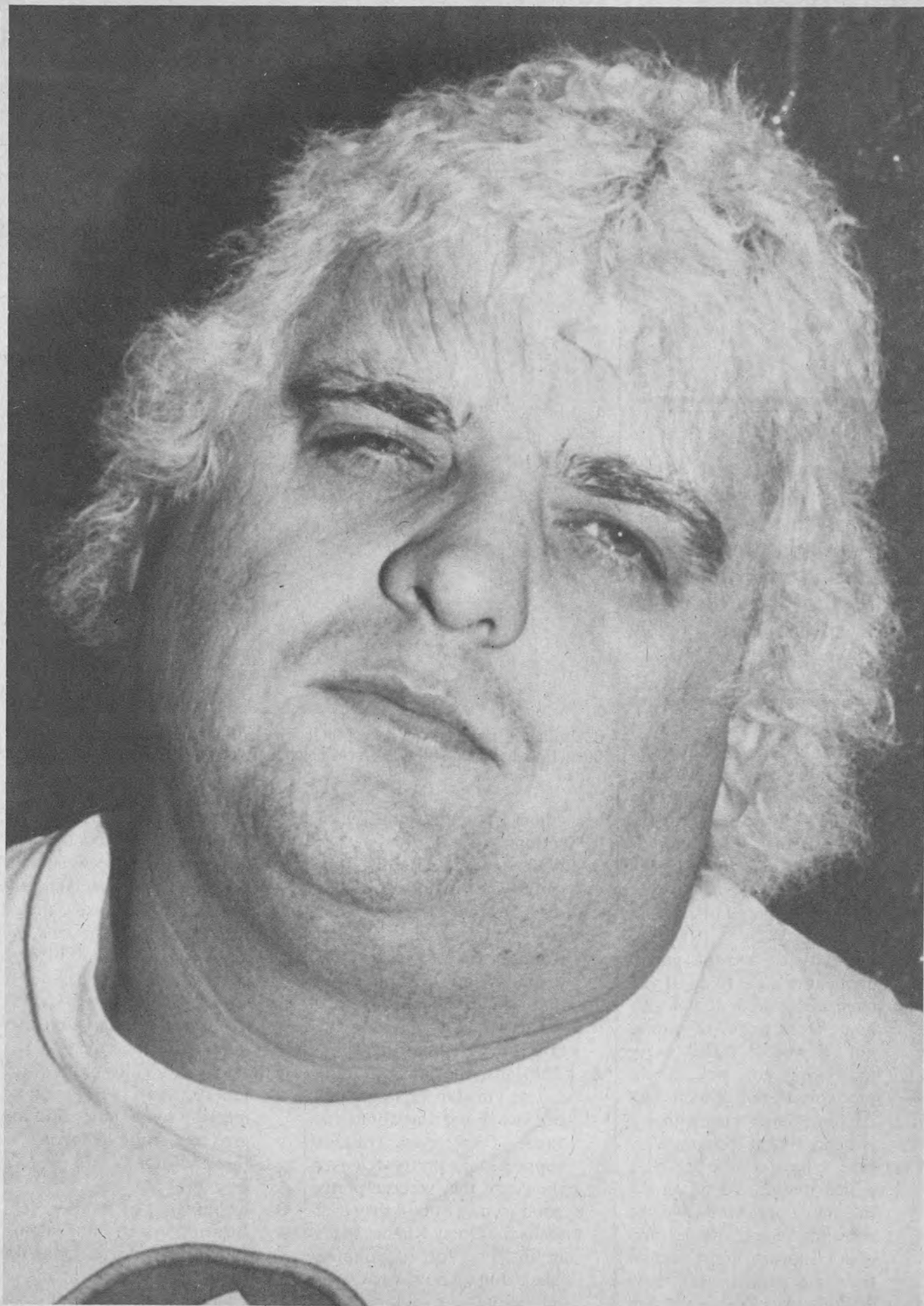
**Am I past my prime?
Hell, no, I'm not even into
my prime yet. There's
a lot of rasslin' left in
Dusty Rhodes.**

”

just plain lucky down the line. The luckiest night of all was when he wrestled me, because he was wrestling an injured man.

Q: A lot of critics have been saying that you're past your prime, that you injure too easily, and that you take unnecessary risks by going into the ring with injuries. How do you answer them?

A: I'm going to take those questions one at a time, Peter, and I'll spell it out for all my so-called critics so that they'll understand about Dusty Rhodes once and for all. Number one: Am I past my prime? Hell, no, I'm not even into my prime yet. There's a lot of rasslin' left in Dusty Rhodes, and anyone who says no will just have to step into the ring with me and learn otherwise. Number two: Do I get too many injuries? Again I say no. This is something that really bugs me, because I hear it a lot. Somewhere there were a bunch of egg-





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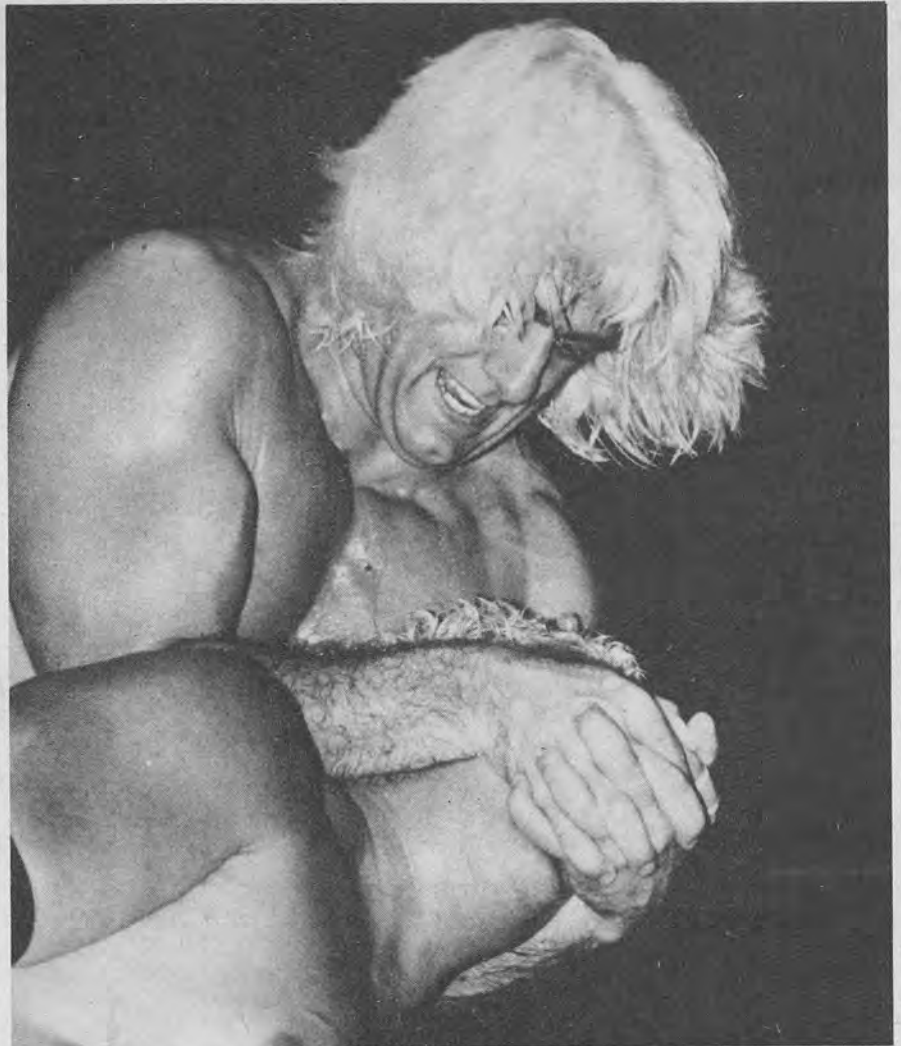
If the fans had any idea of even half of what goes on in the day of a wrestler's life, they wouldn't say half the things that they do most of the time.

”

head doctors who said I shouldn't wrestle anymore. Well, all I ever had was one major injury, and that was in my leg right before I lost the title to Flair.

Q: But the fact is that you do wrestle a lot even with that leg being injured. Isn't that overly risky?

A: Look, Peter, a man's got to do what he's got to do. If you have a little cold, do you stay home from work? Of course not. If you did that every time you got sick, you'd probably be out of work half the time. Same thing with me. If I stay out of the ring every time I have a sore leg or a pulled muscle, I'd be on the sidelines more than I'd be wrestling. Sore muscles and minor injuries are a fact of life for a wrestler, and there ain't no way in Texas that I'm



Dusty Rhodes has absolutely no respect for Ric Flair as a human being or as a wrestler. Dusty feels he would still be NWA champion if he had wrestled Flair at full-strength.

gonna let 'em keep me out of action.

Q: Well, you've certainly convinced me, if not all of our readers. Indeed, many fans still believe that Dusty Rhodes is a wrestler for yesterday, not for tomorrow; that you're all washed up. What would you say to the fans directly about that?

A: The fans, the fans . . . you know, I'm starting to get sick of always hearing about the fans. Okay, so they've supported me pretty well over the years, they've been pretty good to me. But all they ever see is the Dusty Rhodes that's in the ring for 10 minutes. They don't know what goes on before a match, after a

match, during my days off. The fans don't know the hell I go through, between the constant matches and the dealing with the press, and all the rest of it. If the fans had any idea of even half of what goes on in the day of a wrestler's life, they wouldn't say half the things that they do most of the time.

Q: Okay, let's shift gears for a minute, here. I'm going to mention some names, and you give me your reactions to them, all right?

A: Fire away.

Q: Kabuki.

A: Bizarre, strange, and almost as worthless a wrestler as Ric Flair. He's a comical figure, really, and that's why I came



“

[Flair] is a grandstander, but don't be surprised if someday he's kicked out of the top spot at a time when he least expects it.

”

into the ring dressed up in Kabuki makeup that time. I wanted to show the fans how ridiculous Kabuki really is, and that seemed like a good way to do it.

Q: Ted DiBiase.

A: You know, this may surprise a lot of people, but I have no animosity towards DiBiase at all. We wrestled each other in Atlanta when I held the NWA belt, and it was a great match. I really respect DiBiase's skills, and I think a title match again, now that he's got the North American belt, would be a superb battle.

Q: The Samoans.

A: Real low class characters, those beasts. They don't even have real names! I mean really, who would name their child Afa or Sika? I think there are some strange things about those beasts that the public isn't allowed to know, and that we probably wouldn't want to know.

Q: Ernie Ladd.

A: Another low class character. I'd put him right alongside The Samoans.

Q: David Von Erich.

Dusty had his face made up in an attempt to gain a psychological advantage over Kabuki (above). The American Dream has issued a challenge to North American champion Ted DiBiase, whom he wrestled in a classic scientific match last July (below).



A: Well, here's a guy who's gone through an astonishing change over the past year. I respect his abilities, but I can't respect his attitude. If I were his daddy, I'd tar and feather his hide and whup some sense into his thick skull. I don't like to get involved in other families'

personal matters, though.

Q: One final question. What's in the future for Dusty Rhodes?

A: A lot of wrestling, you can bet your boots on that. I'm as active in the ring now as I've ever been, it's just that Ric Flair has been grabbing most of the headlines. Okay, so he's a grandstander, but don't be surprised if someday he's kicked out of the top spot at a time when he least expects it.

Q: Is that to say that you are making a definite move for the NWA championship one more time?

A: Well, I can't say yes right now, and I can't say no. All I will say is don't count Dusty Rhodes out of the action just yet.

Q: Dusty, thanks for joining us here on the Hotseat.

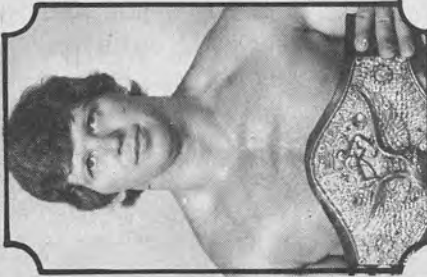
A: My pleasure, Peter. □

INSIDE WRESTLING'S

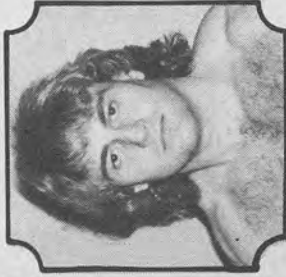
OFFICIAL RATINGS

These Ratings Are Compiled With The Assistance Of Top Wrestlers, Promoters, And Reporters. They Are Universally Accepted As Official

World Wrestling Federation



Champion:
BOB BACKLUND



1—ADRIAN ADONIS

American Wrestling Association

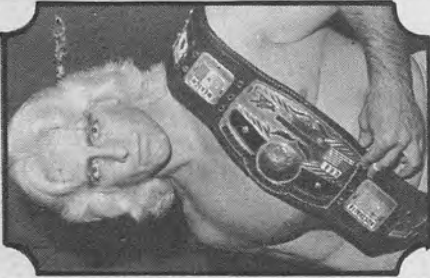


Champion:
NICK BOCKWINKEL

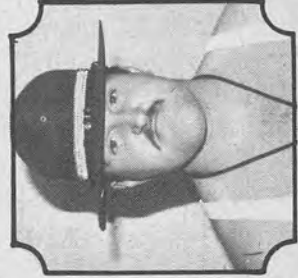


1—HULK HOGAN

National Wrestling Alliance



Champion:
RIC FLAIR



1—SGT. SLAUGHTER

Most Popular Wrestlers



1—ANDRE
THE GIANT



2—TOMMY RICH

Most Hated Wrestlers



1—RIC FLAIR



2—SGT. SLAUGHTER

Tag Teams



1—MR. FUJI &
MR. SAITO





2—JESSE VENTURA



3—PEDRO MORALES



4—JIMMY SNUKA

- 5—GREG VALENTINE
- 6—TONY ATLAS
- 7—IVAN PUTSKI
- 8—KILLER KHAN
- 9—RICK MARTEL
- 10—PAT PATTERSON



2—TITO SANTANA



3—KEN PATERA

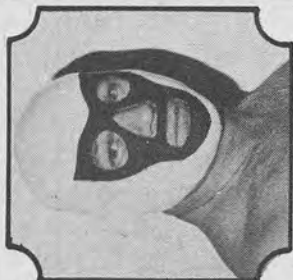


4—CRUSHER
BLACKWELL

- 5—BARON VON RASCHKE
- 6—SHEIK ADNAN AL-KAISSIE
- 7—BOBBY DUNCUM
- 8—GREG GAGNE
- 9—JIM BRUNZELL
- 10—BUCK ZUMHOFE



2—TOMMY RICH



3—MR. WRESTLING II



4—BRUISER

- 5—RODDY PIPER
- 6—DUSTY RHODES
- 7—HARLEY RACE
- 8—DAVID VON ERICH
- 9—TED DiBIASE
- 10—LES THORNTON



3—DUSTY RHODES



4—BOB BACKLUND



5—RICK STEAMBOAT

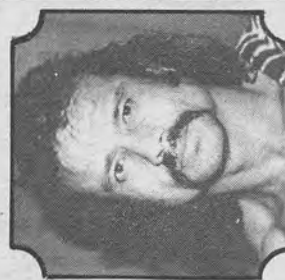
- 6—HULK HOGAN
- 7—MIL MASCARAS
- 8—MR. WRESTLING II
- 9—PEDRO MORALES
- 10—JUNKYARD DOG



3—GREG VALENTINE



4—KEN PATERA



5—JIMMY SNUKA

- 6—MASKED SUPERSTAR
- 7—ADRIAN ADONIS
- 8—KEVIN SULLIVAN
- 9—DAVID VON ERICH
- 10—EDDY MANSFIELD



2—GREG GAGNE
& JIM BRUNZELL



3—JACK & JERRY
BRISCO



4—MASKED SUPER-
STAR & SUPER
DESTROYER

5—MIKE GEORGE &
JUNKYARD DOG

6—TONY GAREA &
RICK MARTEL

7—KEN PATERA &
BOBBY DUNCUM

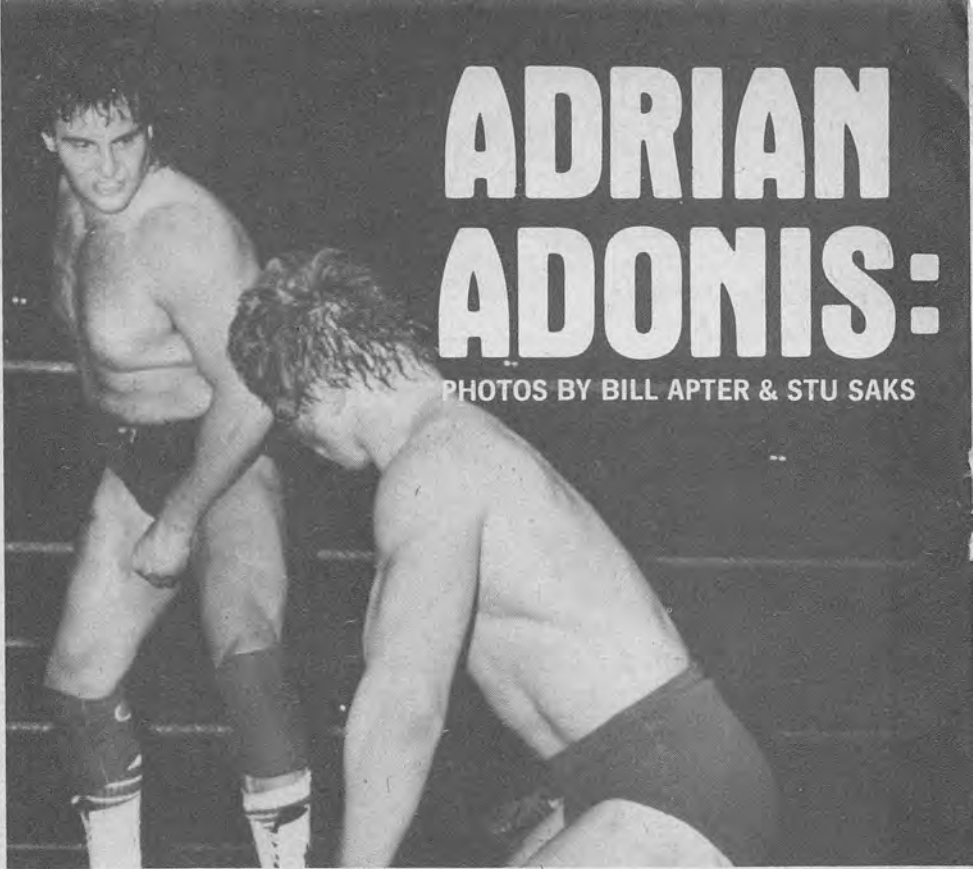
8—THE MULLIGANS

9—OX BAKER & CARL
FERGIE

10—BRAD & BOB
ARMSTRONG



Adonis pulls a bloody Backlund into the ring by his hair (above) and challenges the WWF champion to get to his feet (above right). Backlund, bleeding profusely from a cut on the forehead and a broken nose, whips Adonis into the ropes (below).



ADRIAN ADONIS:

PHOTOS BY BILL APTER & STU SAKS



IN THE RING, Bob Backlund was bleeding profusely from a severe cut above his left eye. The gash was so deep that the referee had to stop this WWF championship match.

In the 5,000-plus occupied seats at Madison Square Garden, fans roared their disapproval at the referee. They wanted a battle to the finish, and most felt that the challenger had escaped too easily.

In the lockerroom, that

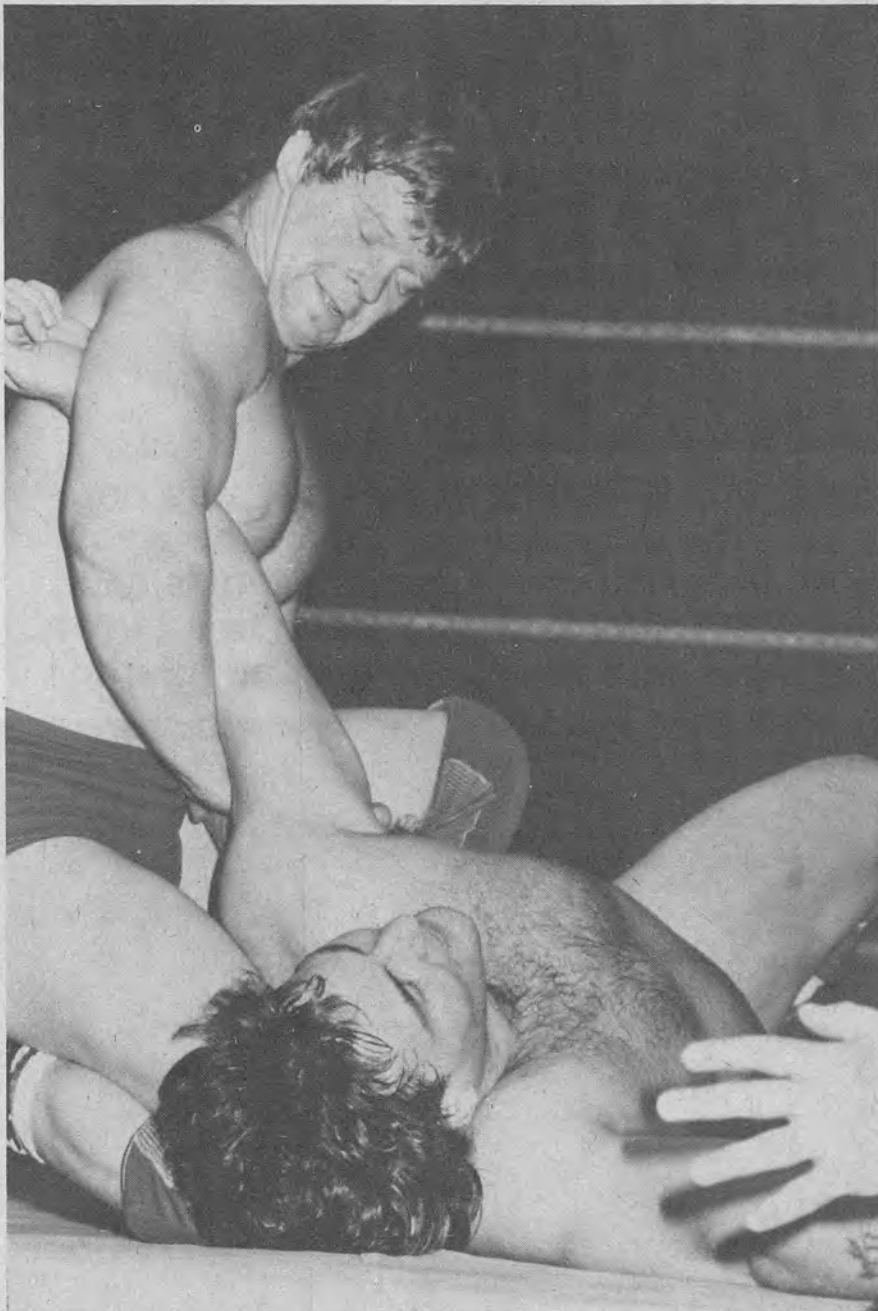
challenger leaned against a wall and paused to catch his breath. His barrel chest heaved as he drank in the oxygen, reclaiming more of his spent energy.

Tired but smiling, Adrian Adonis was pleased about his first WWF championship title shot.

"I destroyed Backlund," snarled Adonis, "you all saw what happened. I gave him a taste of the street violence that spawned me and it split his head like an overripe

"I CAN BEAT BACKLUND ..."

As blood poured into his eye and Adrian Adonis pounded into his body, Bob Backlund began to worry. It looked like the end of four-year championship . . . until the referee stopped the match. Was the bout stopped so Backlund wouldn't lose his belt? Adonis believes it was, and now he swears vengeance



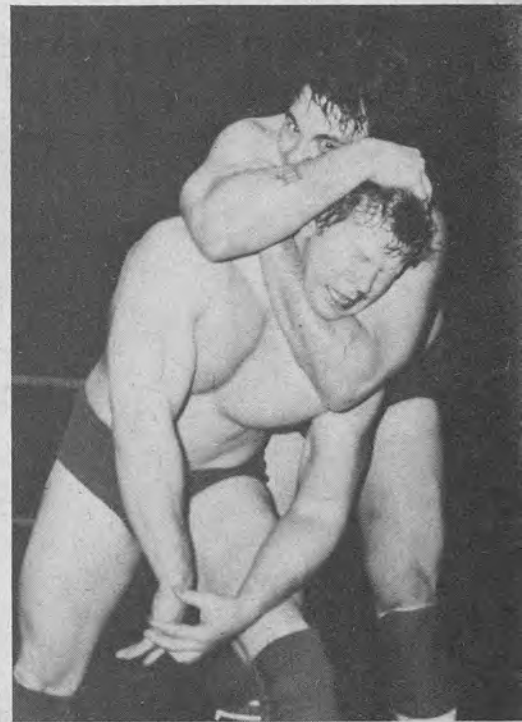
The early portion of the match saw a brilliant exchange of scientific maneuvers (above). Only after Adonis attempted to use "Goodnight Irene" (above right) did the match degenerate into a brawl.

do half my job."

Adonis spat on the floor in disgust. His smile disintegrated into anger.

"Let me tell you something," Adonis growled. "Out in the streets, the only language people understand is the voice of the fist. Once you decide you're going to mix it up with someone, you go ahead and do it, jack. If you get your head busted, nobody is going to run in and save your butt.

"Backlund was lucky; he planned for the referee to do what he did," accused Adonis. "Once you step into the ring, you should



be man enough to take your chances and take your lumps. Backlund simply isn't man enough so he had the referee stop the match so he wouldn't lose his precious title.

"The last time anyone stopped one of my battles before it was through, I was seven years old," Adonis recalled. "A smart-mouthed punk named Eddie called me a few choice names. I didn't

(Continued on page 56)

**I JUST
CAN'T
BEAT THE SYSTEM!"**

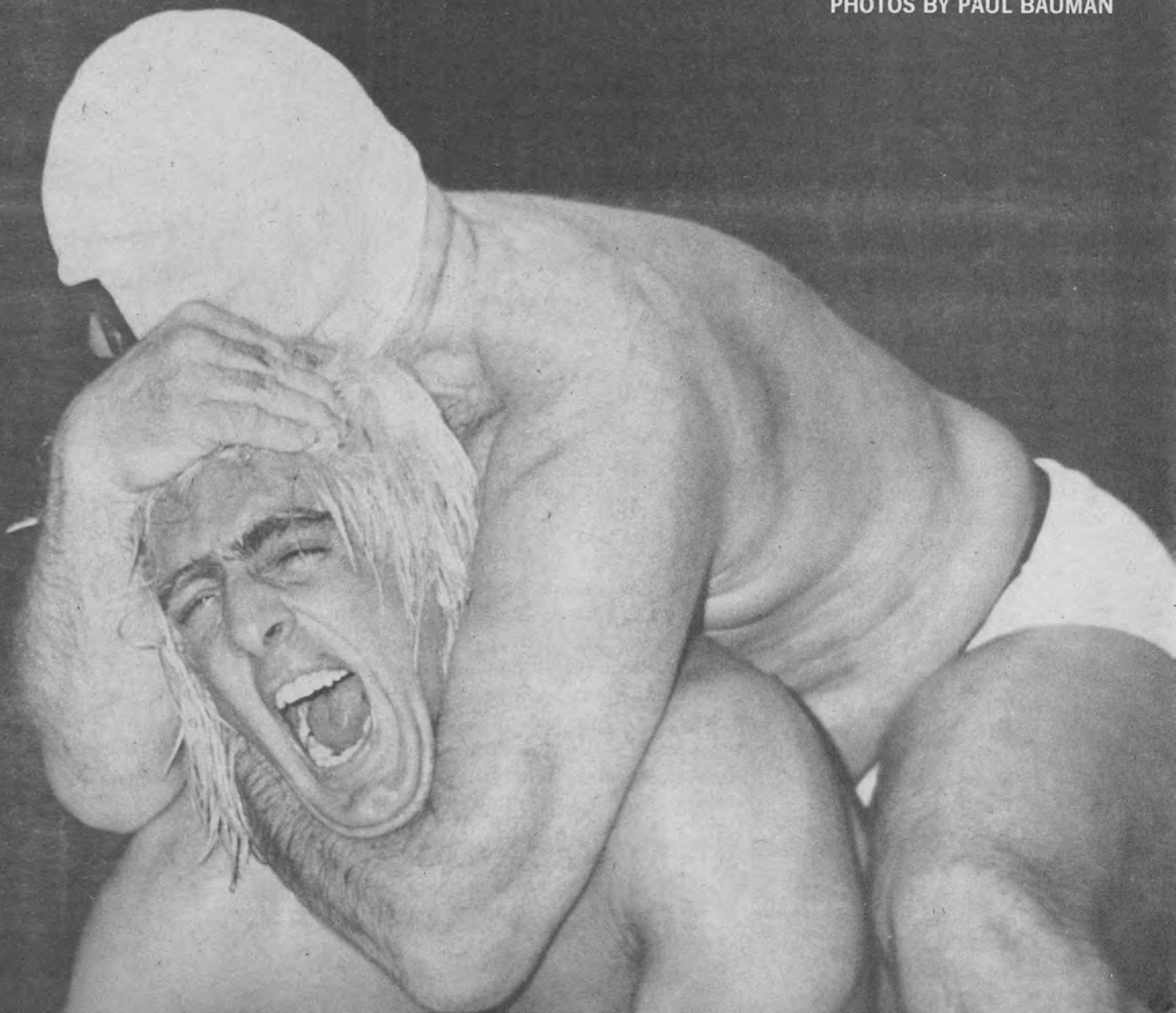
tomato. I was ready to finish the job, but the referee prevented me from gaining my rightful victory.

"I can beat Backlund," Adonis continued, "I can chew up that weasel and spit him out before breakfast if I want to, but he's got the system behind him. I can't beat the system that only allows me to

HOW RIC FLAIR SAVED MR. WRESTLING II'S CAREER

For the past few years, Mr. Wrestling II's career was on a treadmill. It seemed as if the inner fire that drives the greats had become extinguished inside the masked legend's soul. Then Ric Flair won the NWA title. Now, the flame that burns inside Mr. Wrestling II rages with the intensity of an inferno

PHOTOS BY PAUL BAUMAN



THE ALMOST DESERTED gymnasium darkened as twilight turned to night. Only one light burned in the large room, and the manager wasn't too happy about that.

"Isn't it time you went home?" he asked the man repeating an exercise on the mat. "You can't sleep here."

The man ignored the manager. He was too intent on perfecting a maneuver. Again and again, the man's left leg licked out, twisting his body and causing him to roll on the mat. The motion made no sense, until the spectator imagined a man standing across from the athlete. All the manager could imagine was his wife's anger at him arriving late for dinner.

"Look, buddy," he shouted, "this isn't an all-night establishment. It's time to go home. You got a home, don't ya?"

The man ignored the manager again. The frustrated proprietor went to the light switch and plunged the gym into semi-darkness. The man on the mat continued perfecting his maneuver.

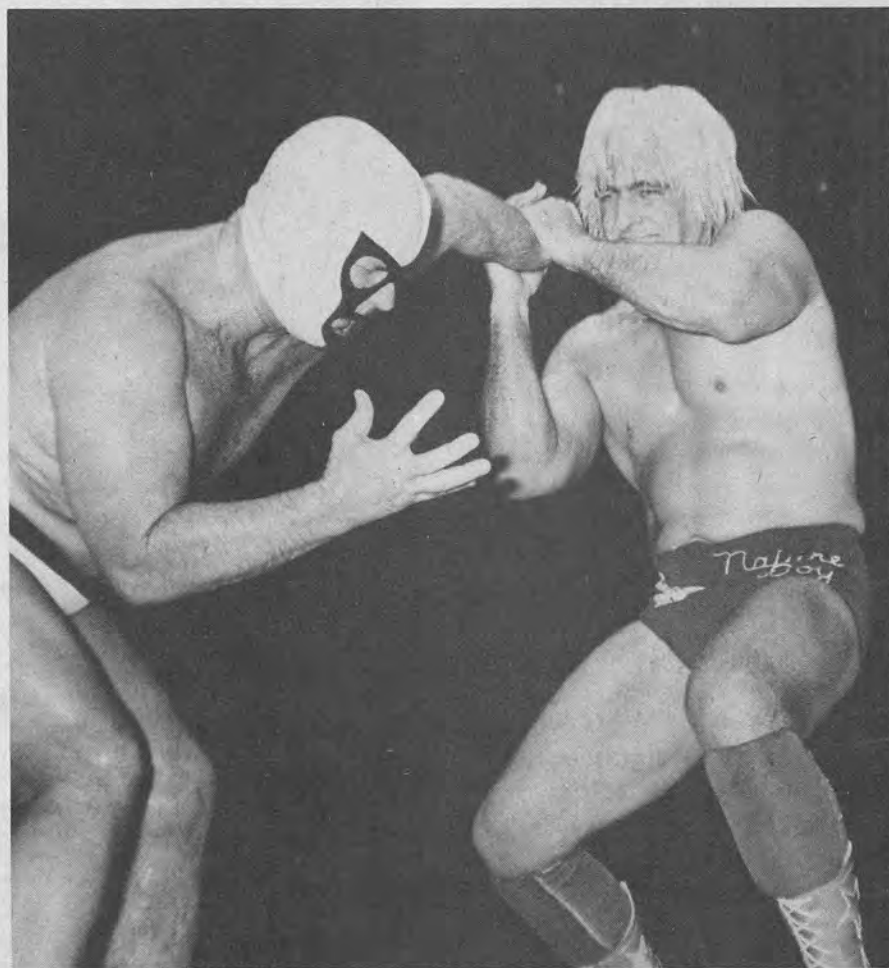
"That does it, buddy," the manager muttered under his breath. He walked to the mat and started rolling it up. This got the athlete's attention. For the first time, he noticed that he was alone and the lights were out. The man apologized to the manager and strode happily to the lockerroom. His deep chuckle echoed throughout the gymnasium.

Later that night, the man met a reporter in a restaurant. It was a restaurant that knew the man; many other establishments frown on their patrons wearing masks. Mr. Wrestling II only goes to places that know him and respect his desire to always wear a mask in public.

If a man wearing a mask can be said to beam, Mr. Wrestling II was beaming. He seemed more lively than he had in years. He began eating like a man whose every sense was alive and sharp. He laughed



Mr. Wrestling II is no longer content to sit back and wait for his opportunities. He has seen the direction Ric Flair has taken the sport he loves. II weakens Flair with a sleeperhold (opposite page) and then maneuvers around Flair to apply a front facelock (above). II will ease the pressure on his twisted left arm (below) by flipping himself forward.

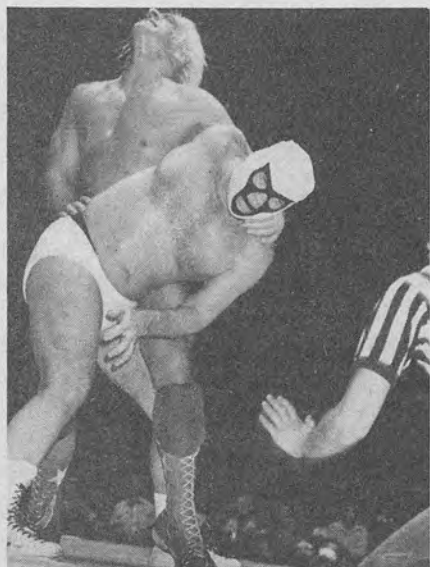


easily and long, not something that he's been able to do lately.

Like a child eager to brag about a straight A report card, Mr. Wrestling II discussed his strategy for defeating Ric Flair and winning the NWA title. What he said wasn't important. His enthusiasm and dedication were more telling than his plans. This was a man who couldn't wait to get in the ring.

When the reporter remarked on Wrestling II's excitement, the man laughed and nodded his head.

"This is the best I've felt in years," he admitted. "Before Flair became champion, I was content to stay in Georgia, wrestling who I



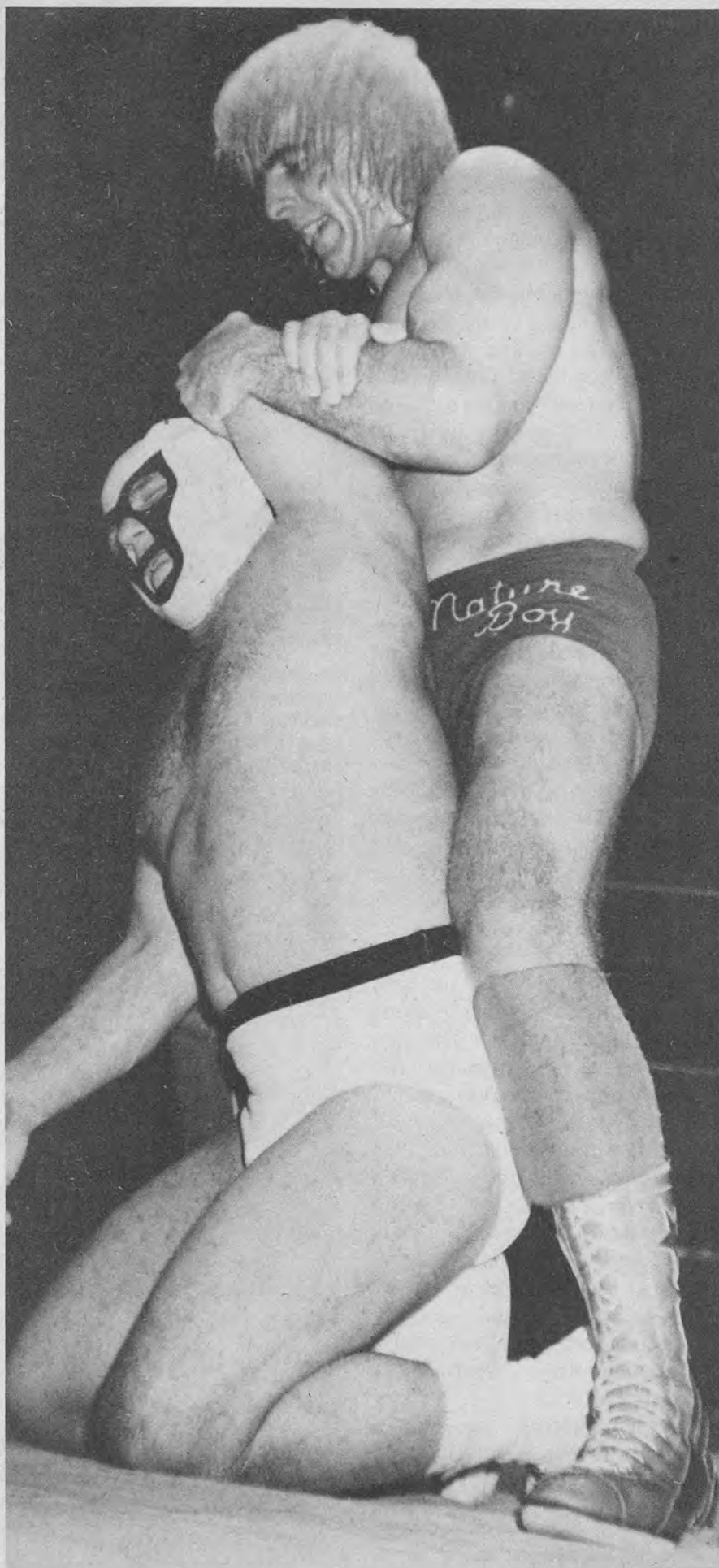
Wrestling II took a great deal of punishment from the NWA champion but was too determined to give in.

had to when I must. I got my title shots, and I wanted to win, but I didn't need to win the belt. That's why Harley Race managed to keep me from it. Harley needed the title; I didn't.

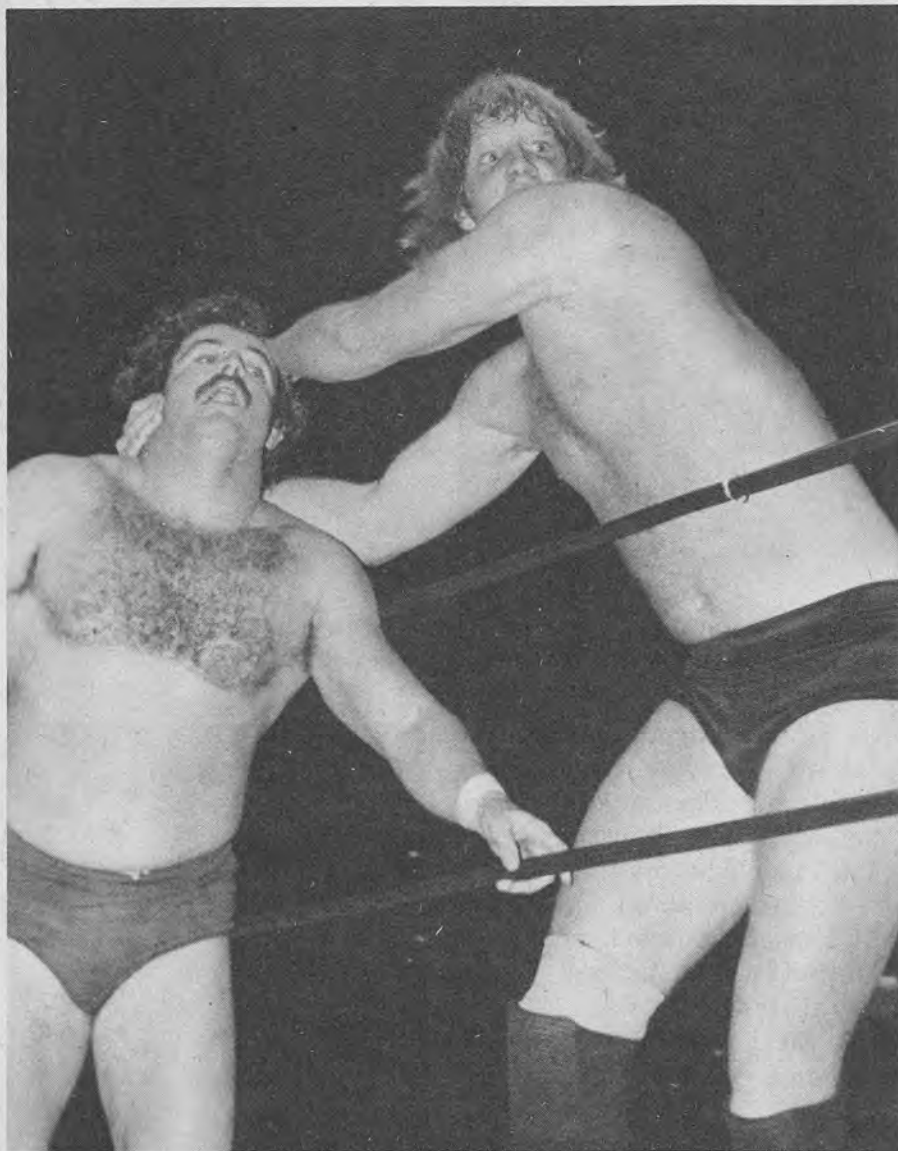
"I need the title now. Flair hits me in the senses my mind can't control and I don't want to control them. For the first time in a long time, I'm reckless. The excitement I feel when Flair stands across the ring from me is incredible.

"Flair is everything I hate in wrestling. He's a young punk who can ruin this sport. He has to be stopped quickly. I'm not bragging

(Continued on page 58)



David Von Erich vs. Mike Graham



A crazed look of sadism in his eyes, David Von Erich runs Mike Graham along the ring apron so that his head will smash solidly into the metal ring support.

PHOTOS BY DUANE LONG

THERE'S NO TURNING BACK

Nobody realizes more than David Von Erich what a turning point in his life the match against Mike Graham was. The final vestiges of David's past have been discarded. Now he stands alone, one man against that most brutal of enemies: an uncertain future

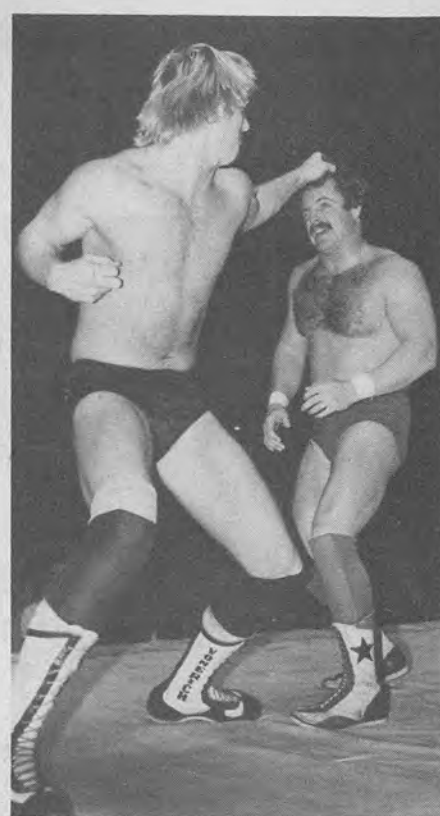
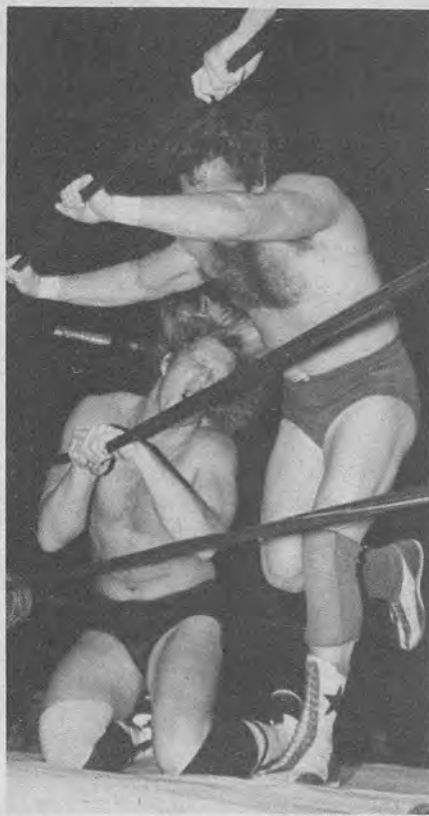
DAVID VON ERICH studied himself in the dressing room mirror. Lost in concentration, he was staring deeply into his own eyes, as if trying to pierce the barrier between his own reflection and his innermost soul.

For what seemed like an eternity, unblinking eyes inspected that which looked back from the silvered glass. More than a mere image was produced by that mirror. Transfixed by fascination, David Von Erich felt as if he were looking into his very future.

Lost in his own abstract conception of what that future might hold for him, Von Erich failed to notice the obvious, if not mundane, aspects that revealed themselves.

The sweat, for example. Trickling beads of perspiration on his forehead and neck offered mute testament to the extreme exertion of the past half-hour. Exertion against an opponent—Mike Graham—who presented a strong challenge, but was it strong enough to warrant such a vigorous offensive on the part of Von Erich?

Then there were the stiff muscles in the neck and the bulging veins of his twin temples that betrayed the animalistic fury with which Von Erich had approached Graham this evening. Fury which—not too many months ago—would have been seen as shockingly uncharacteristic of a Von Erich son, but which recently has become a frightening hallmark of David's style.



Von Erich clamps his long, powerful arms around Graham's head (above left). David cowers in the corner as Graham goes on the offensive (above center). Von Erich prepares to throw his knuckles into Mike's exposed face (above right).

As Von Erich pondered his future, he neglected to realize the irony of the past. This was Mike Graham he had wrestled, not some preliminary stiff still wet behind the ears.

Mike Graham vs. David Von Erich. This match presents a ghostly caricature of history repeating itself. Years ago, the fathers of these young wrestlers met in the squared circle. Eddie Graham vs. Fritz Von Erich. Who at the time could even begin to suspect what would transpire between their offspring?

Mike Graham embodies many of the same qualities for Florida wrestling fans as did his father. For them, Graham represents a rare combination of superb wrestling ability and pure sportsmanship. In Florida, and in the surrounding areas where his name is also well known, Mike Graham commands a great deal of respect.

On the other hand, David Von Erich seems to have slipped from the graces of the Florida constituency. Once viewed to be in

the same league as Graham, David's newly discovered independence has radically altered the course of wrestling and the Von Erich family history.

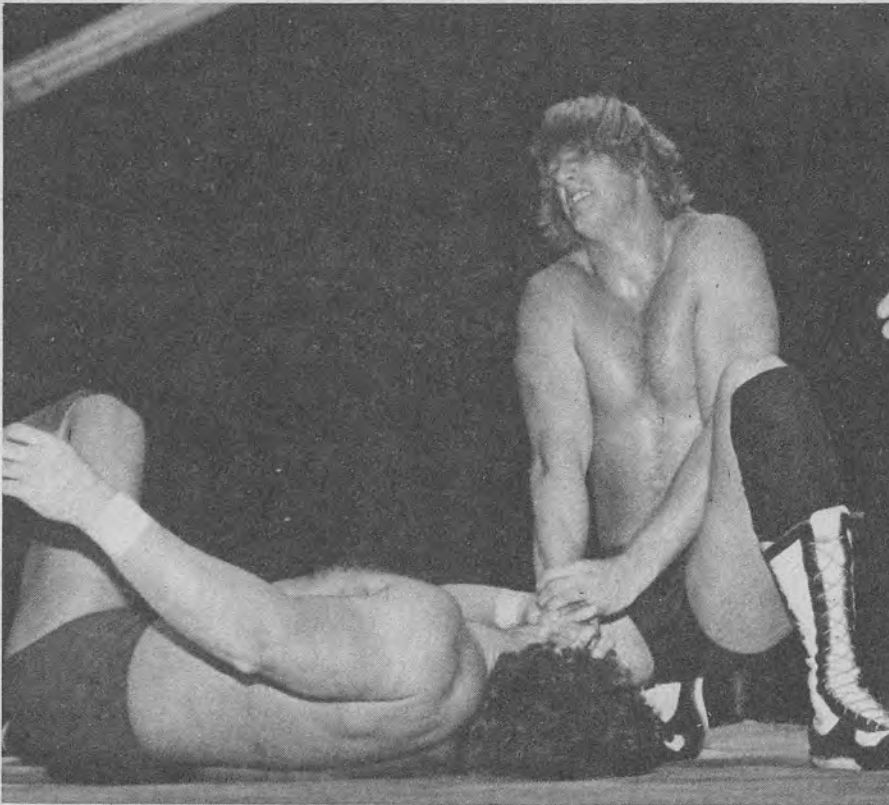
Yet if there were ever a chance for David to redeem himself in the eyes of his family and former supporters, it was all but eliminated when he stepped into the ring against Graham that evening.

If anything, David defied his past by showing as fierce and brutal a style against Graham as he's ever displayed. For this young rebel, there was certainly no respect lost between himself and Graham. For David Von Erich, there's no turning back.

That seemed to be the most prevalent realization for David as he studied himself and considered the actions of the past and the inevitabilities of the future.

Turning from the mirror, his expression remaining as rigid and unchanging as before, David walked slowly to the locker and removed a towel. He seemed to be





Von Erich applies his deadly brain claw (above), and even after Graham begins to convulse on the mat, he refuses to release (below). What drives this once-loved and respected man to such evil?

analyzing every action as it was made: the reaching for the handle on the locker door, the unfolding of the towel, the placement of it around his neck.

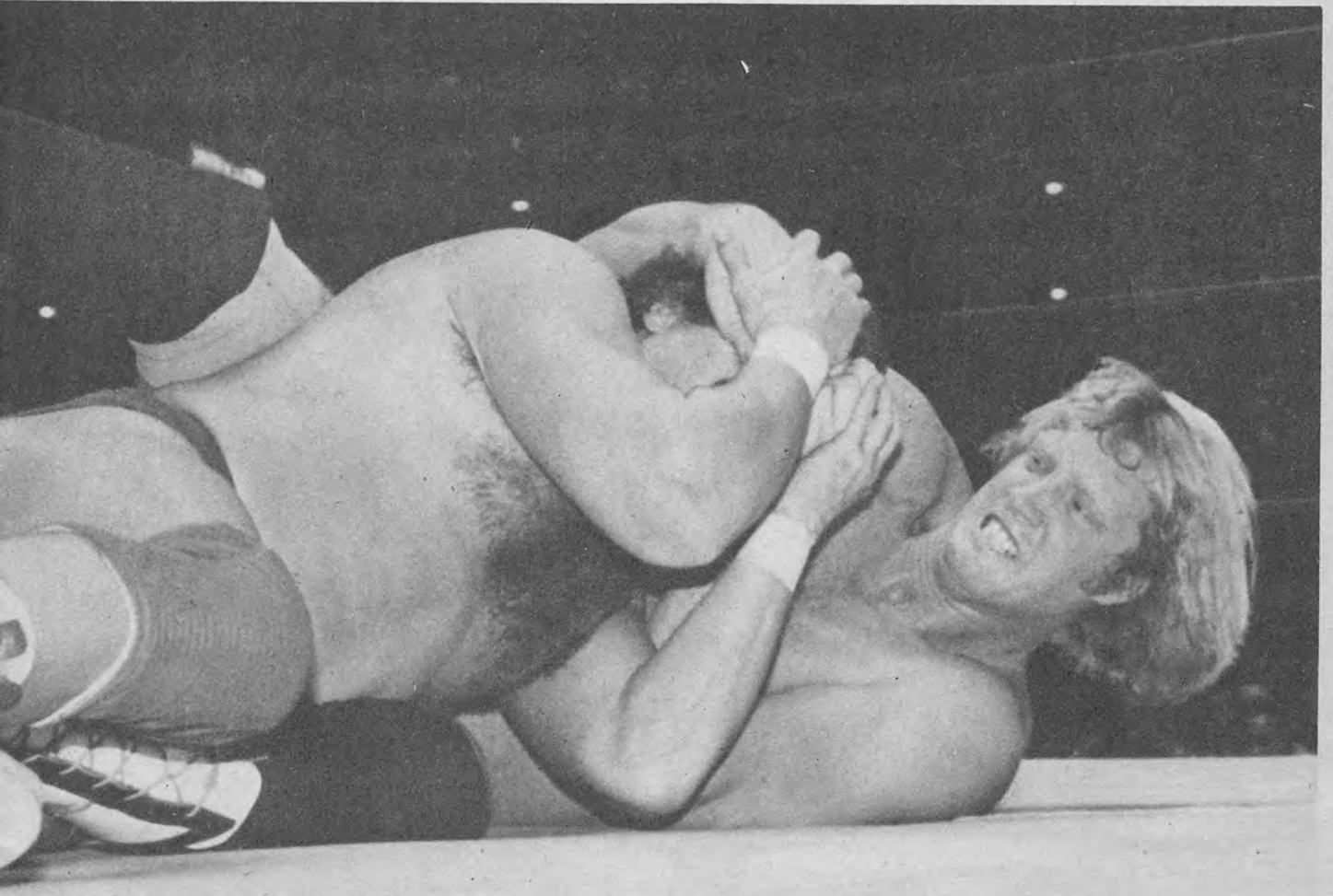
David was analyzing, studying, and ultimately searching for . . . well, perhaps for meaning or a purpose. Whatever a man's outlook on life, there is much more to wrestling than simply the few minutes spent in the ring against the next opponent.

With the towel draped around his neck, David once again returned to the mirror and silently studied himself. After a few minutes, he broke the silence.

"It's a long haul ahead."

The words were spoken softly, almost imperceptibly, and to nobody in particular.

An equally imperceptible sigh escaped from between David's lips as he turned away from himself and slowly walked to the showers. □



A black and white photograph capturing a dramatic moment in a professional wrestling match. Hulk Hogan, shirtless and wearing his signature white trunks, is in the process of slaming a female wrestler. The wrestler is suspended in the air, her body arched backwards, with her legs tucked and arms outstretched. Hogan's hands are firmly planted on the wrestler's back, supporting her as she falls. The scene is set in a wrestling ring, with the ropes visible at the bottom of the frame. The lighting is dramatic, highlighting the muscular physique of Hogan and the athletic form of the wrestler.

Hogan Slams Blackwell:

**THE \$1,000
BODYSLAM
HEARD
'ROUND
THE
WORLD**

PHOTOS BY BOB RUIZ

THERE ARE CERTAIN moments that are frozen in time. One image, burned unforgettably into your memory, sums up an entire event. Poets call it the eternal instant.

There are several such instants in sport. Everybody can recall the moments, instantly picture the image. It becomes part of our heritage.

When such an instant occurs, no one has to point it out. It's known and understood immediately by everyone. Even if you aren't there when it happens, you soon know it as if by some unconscious insight. Though only a few thousand saw Hulk Hogan bodyslam Crusher Blackwell, it seems as if everyone knows just how it happened.

The immense Blackwell being lifted in the air and sent crashing to the canvas is enough to stagger anyone's imagination. The man weighs over 500 pounds, and \$1,000 determined he could not be bodyslammed. The \$1,000 was the prize Blackwell promised anyone who could bodyslam him. It was not a bounty he ever expected to pay.

And then came Hulk Hogan. A superbly muscled titan, Hogan instinctively assumes there is no limit to his strength. He accepted Blackwell's challenge. Perhaps he succeeded because it never occurred to him he could fail.

Hogan claims not to have trained specially to bodyslam Blackwell. "It doesn't matter that

Blackwell is twice the size of a normal wrestler. The theory is the same. It's just the strength that's different. Either I had that or I didn't."

On that extraordinary night, Hogan was brilliant throughout the match. More than just exhibiting strength, he was graceful as he repeatedly had Blackwell in trouble. Veteran journalists had never seen Hogan move with such speed and cunning. Blackwell must have felt he was being assaulted by an army.

Slowly but surely, Hogan brilliantly penetrated Blackwell's defenses. Blackwell grew careless, not protecting himself from a bodyslam. He didn't care about the

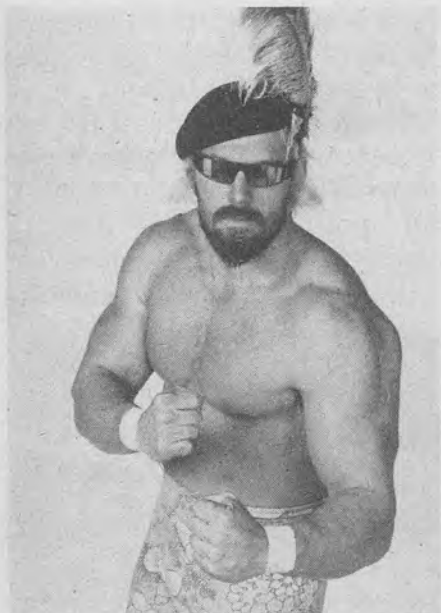
(Continued on page 64)



In one burst of raw energy, Hogan scoops up the quarter-ton Blackwell and bodyslams him to the canvas (opposite left). The Hulk follows up his incredible accomplishment with a legdrive (above).

Crusher Blackwell thought he had made the perfect gamble. He bet \$1,000 that no wrestler could bodyslam him. For months, many tried and all failed. Then along came the Incredible Hulk Hogan

ONE ON ONE

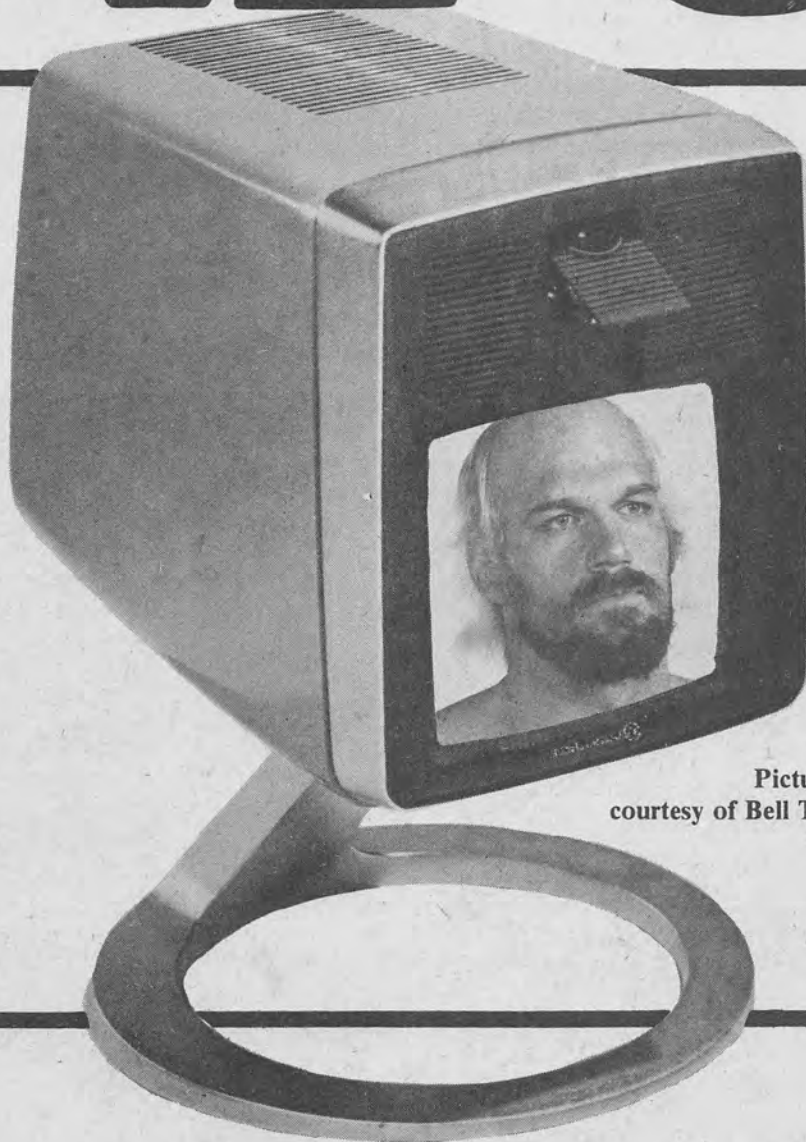


JESSE VENTURA

(Two of the most superbly built grapplers in wrestling are Jesse Ventura and Tony Atlas. Ventura is a braggart, a rulebreaker, and one of the sport's most dangerous men. Atlas is almost his exact opposite—a scientific wrestler, beloved by the fans, and is dangerous only to those who would do him harm. Before a recent match, they had a "pose down"; both men flexing and stretching to show body definition. This and other topics will be discussed "One on One" from their respective training camps.)

JESSE VENTURA:

There's no rule that I have to



Picturephones
courtesy of Bell Telephone

look at you in this Picturephone, is there?

TONY ATLAS:

Are you afraid you won't be able to talk because you'll be overcome with jealousy?

JV: You're living proof that you can fool some of the people all of the time. I'm muscular. You're musclebound. It's a pity that all your barbells slipped off the bar and came

Every month the telephone wires will crackle as two top grapplers rage and argue. We'll print the unedited transcript of their conversations, giving the fans a privileged glimpse at wrestlers which can be found nowhere else

NONE



Simulated photos

crashing down on your ugly head. You're lucky I'm even speaking to you.

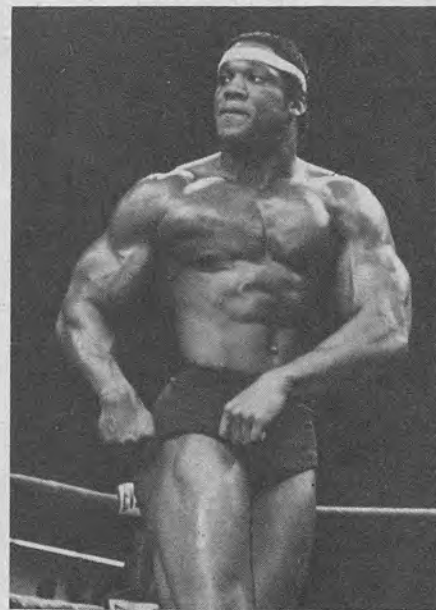
TA: You have a strange definition of luck. Look, we agreed to have a discussion. There's no sense sitting here and exchanging insults.

JV: I'm having fun, but I also like to shoot fish in a barrel.

TA: This is pointless. We do have interesting things to discuss. For instance, even though

we may not wrestle the same way, we're both bodybuilders. For a long time, people said bodybuilders couldn't be athletes. They'd call us musclebound.

JV: I remember. They laughed at me when I was going to junior high and high school. The coach in junior high wouldn't let me on the wrestling team because I lifted weights. Even when I was beating every



TONY ATLAS

other kid, he wouldn't let me join. The louse thought I was setting a bad example.

TA: I had the same experience.

JV: They wouldn't let you on the team because you were a lousy wrestler. Hey, I got a real question. If some trainer came along with proof that lifting weights hurt you as a wrestler, would you give up lifting weights?

TA: I wouldn't believe him.

JV: I said proof. You can believe or not believe him.

TA: I don't think it can happen.

JV: Afraid to answer the question?

TA: Maybe. What would you do?

JV: I'd give up the weights, at least for a little while. Then, I'd see if I improved or got worse.

TA: You sound like somebody who's thought about it. In fact, you sound like somebody who's had to make that



decision. Has someone been riding you about the weights, saying you'd be better off without them? I hear your manager, Fred Blassie, doesn't like weightlifters.

JV: I'm my own man.

TA: Nobody who's managed by Blassie is his own man.

JV: Freddie Blassie is a genius. He wouldn't do anything to hurt me.

TA: Now *you're* afraid to answer the question. What does Blassie say about weights? He's a fool from way back.

JV: Blassie is no fool, punk. And he only wants what's best for me. He's the best manager in the world.

TA: You *are* afraid to answer the question. Afraid daddy Freddie will spank you if he

No longer facing each other via Picturephone, Tony Atlas and Jesse Ventura meet face-to-face during the television tapings in Pennsylvania. Though they didn't come into physical contact, the two musclemen engaged in a "pose down," matching flex for flex, with the fans serving as judges. Atlas was an easy winner.

doesn't like what you say?

JV: Shut up, punk. When you get to my level, then you can talk to me. Until then, shut the hell up.

TA: I do most of my talking in the ring, Ventura. Surely, you remember our little "pose down." You know nothing sickens me more than a weightlifter who goes around showing off his muscles. If you do that kind of thing in front of me, I have no choice but to make you look bad.

JV: Hey, if you don't flaunt what you have, what's the sense in having it?

TA: You don't spend three hours a day in the gym working yourself to exhaustion so you can parade around the ring and hear everybody go "ooh." You build yourself up to become a better wrestler. My aspirations in this sport go far beyond having the best body.

JV: Well that's good, because you don't. There isn't a man in wrestling who has a better body than Jesse Ventura.

TA: You know something, Jesse Ventura?

JV: What?

TA: You bore me. □

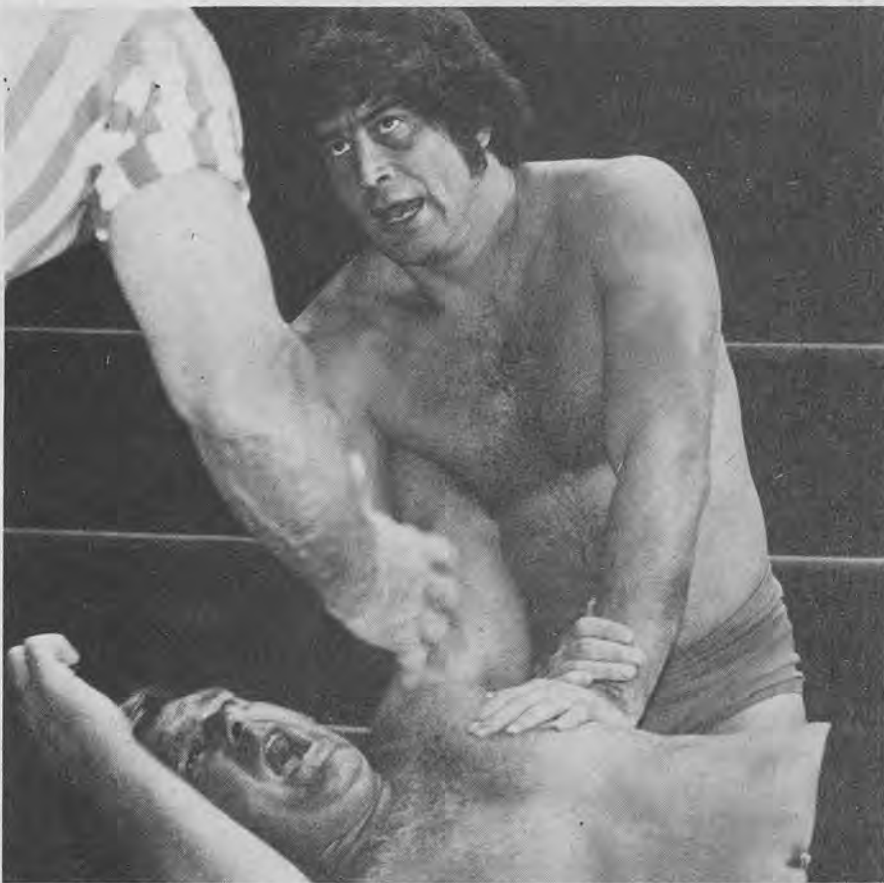
INSIDE WRESTLING

71

CAPSULE PROFILE

CONSIDERED BY MANY experts to be the finest scientific wrestler in the sport (*"There's no doubt my amateur background has helped me as a pro"*)... First came to national recognition when he captured the prestigious NCAA championship while in college (*"After I won the NAAs, the offers to turn pro were astounding"*)... Admits he had some difficulty early in his career (*"Anybody who says it's easy making the transition from amateur to pro is a liar"*)... Became one of the most-feared opponents because of his great strength, agility, and ring knowledge... Highlight of his career was capturing the NWA championship from Harley Race in 1973 (*"A spectacular night, a dream come true"*)... Held the title 1½ years before losing it to Baba the Giant in Japan (*"I have to admit that I was caught off-guard by his strength"*)... Won the belt back in a rematch one week later (*"This*

JACK BRISCO

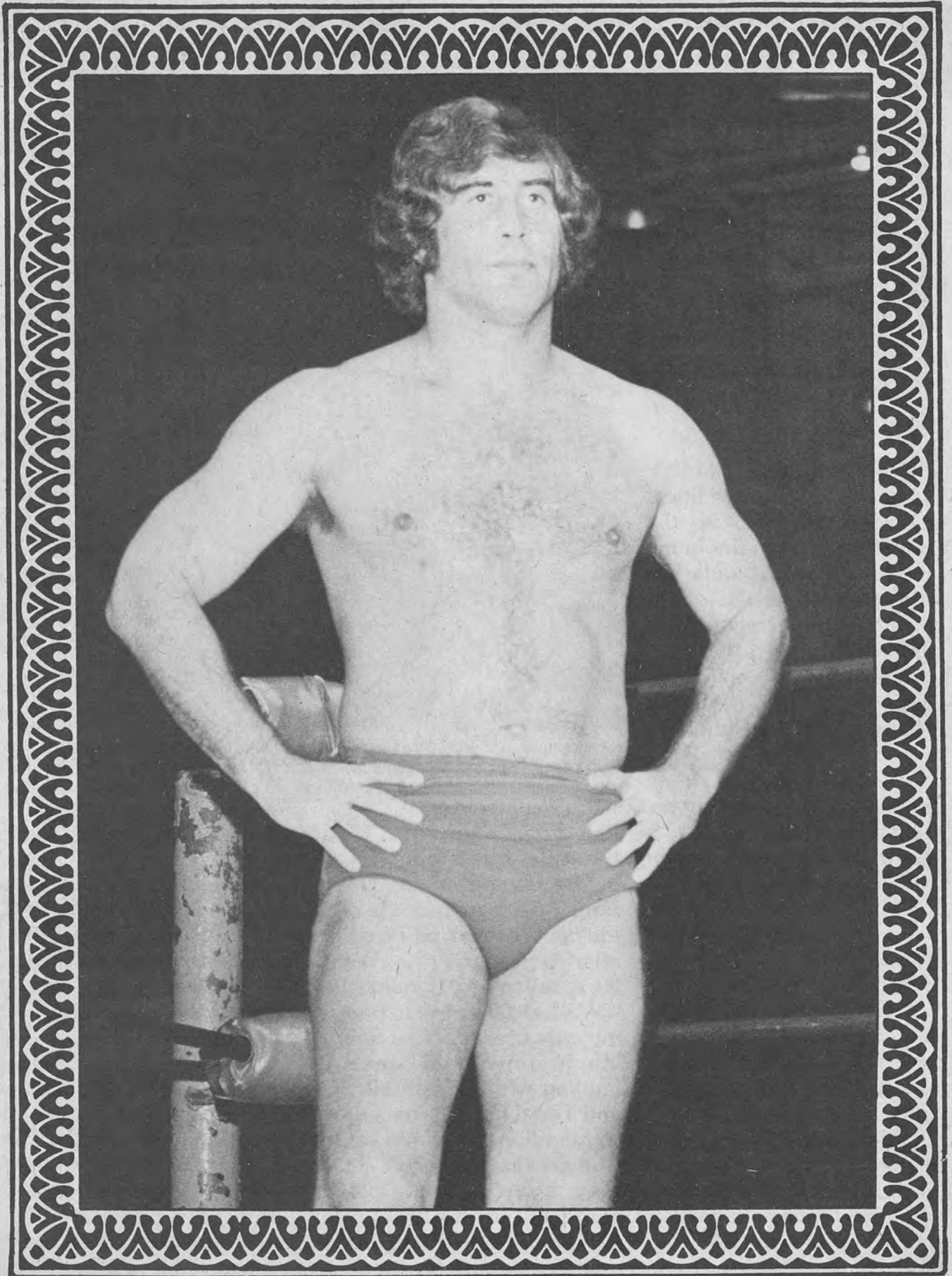


After completing a legendary amateur career and achieving superstar status in the professional ranks at a young age, Jack Brisco's talents began to erode. But now, with renewed vigor and enthusiasm, he is again winning titles and promises to capture the NWA belt for a third time.

time I was ready")... Held the title for another year before losing it to Terry Funk (*"Terry was a late sub for his brother and I wasn't able to prepare"*)... Went into a tailspin after losing the NWA belt (*"I began to doubt my own abilities"*)... Spent much time and energy feuding with Dory Funk Jr. and Terry Funk (*"I was on a treadmill. All I wanted to do was get the Funks"*)... Has once again become a top contender for the NWA title (*"I think I put it back together overnight. I took a long look at myself and*

realized I was too good a wrestler to waste my time on mindless feuds")... Had a spectacular year in 1981, capturing the Missouri state belt and then the Southern championship (*"I really wanted those titles. I had won both earlier in my career, right before I won the NWA belt"*)... Has two pinfall wins over current NWA king Ric Flair (*"I've beat him in non-title matches. Now I want him with the belt on the line"*)... Soft spoken, kind, and intelligent, he is a credit to his sport. □

CAPSULE PROFILE PIN-UP



JACK BRISCO

ON THE ROAD

(Continued from Page 8)



Murdoch, applying a stepover toehold on Bruiser Brody, has made it quite clear that he is in this sport solely for the financial rewards.

wrestlers are able to say they've done that, huh?"

Another pretzel sailed into the air. Murdoch cursed his aim as it bounced off his forehead and onto the floor. A second attempt was successful.

"But all this bounty-hunting . . . it's, it's . . ." I tripped over my tongue as I tried to make my point. "It's unethical!"

"Come on, Peters, get serious, will you?" Murdoch was clearly beginning to lose patience with me. I really didn't care, because by that time I had forgotten about the cold and the snow, and nothing else mattered.

"All I'm doing is making the best of the situation, you know?" Murdoch said. "If I don't answer the call, somebody else will. As far as I'm concerned, it's better to see a couple of thousand go into my own pocket than to watch it go into somebody else's."

"Yeah, but . . ."

"No buts, Ace," barked Murdoch, cutting me off in mid-syllable. "If you were in my position you would do the exact same thing, and you damn well better believe it. I don't give a hoot in hell about your journalistic ethics or whatever you want to call it, but deep down you know that you would go for the bucks just like me. Being right or wrong has nothing to do with it. Let other people decide the reasons why they feud, I wrestle to win."

Murdoch made a strange sort of sense. If the shoe is on the other foot, and all that kind of thing. I went to the bar and ordered up another pitcher, and brought back another bowl of pretzels.

"Just remember," Murdoch added, "you can put glory and ethics and honor in one hand and money into the other and see which one gets filled up first."

Yes, a strange sort of sense indeed, but sense nonetheless. Outside, it began to snow once again. □

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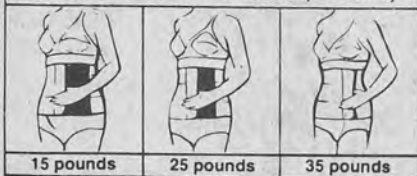


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DRESSING ROOM DOOR

(Continued from Page 10)



Flair traps Rick Steamboat in an abdominal stretch. Ric has lost support of the Mid-Atlantic fans since turning his aggressive style against the area favorites.

loss to Tommy Rich in which only a contractual technicality saved his belt, his bloody feuds with half a dozen of the world's most popular wrestlers. He handled each subject with coolness and sophistication. Such matters don't rattle a champion. It took only one further question to transform this calm man into a raving lunatic.

"The fans in the Mid-Atlantic area have supported you through all the highs and lows of your career," I said, noting the anger building in his eyes before I could even complete my thought. "Even after you beat Rhodes and began to focus your

title defenses on a series of popular scientific style wrestlers, they stood behind you. To be blunt, those same people now hate your living guts . . ."

Flair stomped his heel onto the top of his large oak desk, swiveled around 180 degrees, and jumped out of his chair. "The fans in the Mid-Atlantic," he shouted suddenly . . . and then just as suddenly stopped in mid-sentence. His temples had begun to pulsate, and he knew he wasn't projecting the image he preferred. Flair sat down, grabbed a large cigar from a cedar humidor, and, as if nothing had happened, began to

Speak again.

"I have nothing but the utmost respect for the fans in the Mid-Atlantic section of the country," he said. "As you said, they have been right behind me all the way. I owed them a great debt, and winning the NWA title was just my way of saying thank you to them."

I detected a subtle shift in Flair's speech pattern. He was beginning to lose it again.

"Initially after winning the title," he said (his voice getting a little louder), "the commitments I assumed kept me out of the Mid-Atlantic. When I returned, I dunno, I guess I expected sort of a hero's welcome."

By this time, Flair's voice had become clamorous. He had lost himself to the point where he would not be able to retrieve his wits.

"But no! These damn ingrates. I brought the belt home proudly, and they shoved it in my face. They scream for Steamboat and Youngblood and McDaniel. If they don't want a champion with talent and looks and smarts and class, I'll give title shots to those guys. I've got nothing to lose. They'll be happy, they'll pay for their tickets, I'll get my money with easy matches. I won't even have to risk losing my belt! Hahaha!"

Regardless of Flair's warped thoughts on the fans and wrestlers in the Mid-Atlantic, I feel that the man is in severe danger. His tirade, completely unfounded and unprovoked, was that of a man who is about to go over the edge of sanity.

Admittedly, Ric Flair has proven himself to be a worthy NWA champion, if not potentially one of the greatest of all time. But there is a mental aspect of being champion that must too be weighed. And all things considered, Ric Flair might be a lucky man to lose the title.

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INSIDER

(Continued from Page 14)



AWA champion Nick Bockwinkel prides himself on his eloquence and education. There's no doubt that an acknowledgement of these qualities by a major university would be a boost to his ego, but no plans are set . . . yet.

RUMOR VS. FACT

RUMOR: After being profiled in a major feature story in *Sports Illustrated*, Andre the Giant is about to have a big-budget movie made about his life. Reportedly, Oscar-winning director 'Martin Scorsese will direct the picture.

FACT: While it is true that the story on Andre in *Sports Illustrated* was very well received, there are no plans as of now to film the Giant's life story. After all, how many actors in Hollywood could portray the 7'4", 500-pound athlete?

RUMOR: As acknowledgement to his elegance and class, the University of Chicago is awarding AWA champion Nick Bockwinkel an honorary doctorate in sportsmanship and

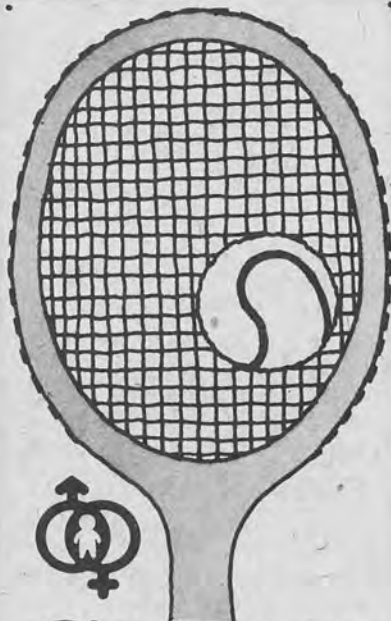
etiquette.

FACT: Actually, no decision has been made yet. Officials at the Mid-Western university are reportedly still mulling over it. "It's very touching just to be considered," Bockwinkel said.

INJURY REPORT

DAVID VON ERICH, who is making the transition to the world of rulebreaking, sprained his ankle while leaping on a preliminary wrestler from the top rope. Manager JAMES J. DILLON said the injury will not keep David sidelined for long.

The same prognosis is seen for TIM HORNER, who suffered a severe sunburn in Florida. Horner told us he became so engrossed in a copy of *Inside Wrestling* that he was unaware of the intense rays frying his back. □



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PRO Wrestling ILLUSTRATED

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PWI/Sept 79

Color Starshot: Backlund & Steamboat



PWI/Nov 79

Color Starshot: Mil Mascaras



PWI/Jan 80

Color Starshot: Mr. Wrestling II



PWI/May 80

Color Starshot: Ric Flair



PWI/July 80

Color Starshot: The Sheik



PWI/Aug 80

Color Starshot: Koloff & Smirnoff



PWI/Sept 80

Color Starshots: Rick Steamboat, Humpderink's Army, Hulk Hogan



PWI/Nov 80

Color Poster: Mil Mascaras



PWI/Dec 80

Color Poster: Greg Valentine



PWI/Jan 81

Color Poster: Bruno Sammartino



PWI/Feb 81

Color Poster: Rick Steamboat



PWI/Apr 81

Color Poster: Hulk Hogan



PWI/May 81

Color Poster: Mr. Wrestling II



PWI/Aug 81

Color Poster: Dusty Rhodes



PWI/Oct 81

Color Poster: Ted DiBiase



PWI/Dec 81

Color Poster: Bob Backlund



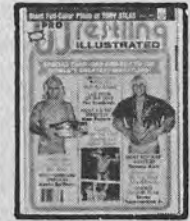
PWI/Jan 82

Color Poster: Magnificent Muraco



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BODYSLAMMS & PINFALLS

(Continued from Page 12)



During the NWA's brighter days, Ole and Gene Anderson served as the sport's premier tag team. But Crockett didn't like their style, and he made sure the team was squashed. Unfortunately, Crockett may well have done the sport irreparable damage at the same time.

mean nothing. They are kept not by the wrestler but by the whim of the association. Everyone with an NWA approved championship is nothing more than a lackey to the bullies who run the association. Keeping the title doesn't mean it's successfully defended. An NWA title means the commissioners know they can control you.

It is probable that two company men like Big Red and Bad Leroy Brown will win the tag team title. The commissioners will

ease their paths. (Kermit and Miss Piggy would be able to win the way the commissioners will schedule the matches.) Red and Brown will only wrestle tired and injured opponents. Others will get the touch matches. When the elimination is over, it will come as no surprise as to who is champion.

The NWA officials couldn't be made any happier. They will have two fan favorites, so the crowds will be happy. They will more importantly have two men they can make jump at the

snap of their fingers. It won't mean anything to them that neither man deserved to be champion. Accomplishment has no meaning in the NWA.

The pity of it is that only a few voices will be raised in complaint. Most people will look upon this state of affairs as noble and just. The NWA commissioners know that wrestling fans often mistake what they want for what is right. Justice has little meaning to a wrestling fan.

The only sufferer will be the sport itself. Ole, Gene, and Buzz Sawyer will continue to wrestle brilliantly. They may even win a few title matches, only to have the commissioners steal the belts from them. Superb athletes, they care only for the competition. Title belts are icing on the cake.

But the sport will suffer and is even in danger of dying. No sport can flourish when stripped of its integrity. When its greatest accomplishment, its championships, are at the mercy of political pressures, victories have little or no meaning. There can be no pride in owning an NWA title.

It's a shame. The commissioners will have an easy life, the fans will be able to love their paper heroes, and only the true heroes will suffer. Gene and Ole will survive as a tag team, and perhaps they'll outlast the disreputable, despicable, and disgraced NWA.

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ADRIAN ADONIS

(Continued from Page 35)



Backlund managed to kick out of Adonis' cradle at the two-count (above). The champion maneuvers out of Adonis' armlock (below) and executes an atomic spinecrusher (opposite right).



learn about Goodnight Irene until I was nine, so I had another idea of how to put him to sleep.

"That kid was lucky, even if he was twice my size and age," Adonis continued. "He wasn't sleeping, but he was pretty groggy when some hardhat from the construction job across the street ran in and broke us up.

"To this day, there's a guy they call 'Doomsday Eddie' who wanders the streets of New York selling pencils and preaching that the end of the world is next week. Walk through town long enough and you'll see him. He has to rest every block or two because he's still

hurting from the scars I gave him that day."

Adonis smiled once again as he relished the memory of a past achievement.

"When I'm out on the street," Adonis noted with smugness, "I walk the way I want to walk . . . I talk the way I want to talk. It's a free-for-all out there, a jungle-land, and I always come out on top.

"There will be a time very soon when I will step into the squared circle with Bob Backlund and there will be no referee to save his skin," said Adonis with a vengeful grin. "It will be a Texas Death Match: no rules, just like the streets. A

VICTORY SPORTS BACK ISSUES

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match to the finish that can't be stopped by blood.

"I'll be able to meet Backlund on my own terms," Adonis continued, "without him being protected by any system of rules or regulations. Once that happens, he'd better be prepared for the worst. When Adrian Adonis is let loose, Bob Backlund better beware."

With that proclamation made, Adonis picked up a strap of leather adorned with steel studs and began to flog himself about the back and shoulders.

"Violence doesn't bother me," insisted Adonis. "I thrive on violence, I feed on violence. Poor Backlund can't even survive a little cut above his eyes. Yeah, Texas Death, that's the only way. No system for Backlund to hide behind, no protection for his WWF belt."

Adonis laughed at the bloodbath he pictured in his mind. The anticipation of a Texas Death Match with Backlund made him a very happy man.

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MR. WRESTLING II

(Continued from Page 38)



Mr. Wrestling II is beyond the age at which the driving force in his life is personal glory. He wants to take Flair's championship for the good of the sport, not himself.

when I say I've got the best chance of anyone to beat Flair. He's most vulnerable to a man of strength and experience. Here I am."

After dinner, the pair returned to Wrestling II's home. The grappler wished to show the reporter his notebooks detailing his projected war against Flair. They were complex, over-elaborate, and some were impossible to execute. What was important was Wrestling II's joy at devising them.

Late that evening, before the reporter prepared to leave, he observed, "In a strange way, Ric Flair is the best thing that's happened to you in years."

Serious this time, Mr. Wrestling

II nodded. "I've thought about that. It's odd that when wrestling faces one of its worst crises, I'm not alive. It's as if I feed off the bad times. I guess I need someone to hate."

"On the other hand," the reporter suggested, "maybe you just need something more important than yourself. Being champion doesn't matter much to you, but it's important to wrestling that Flair be defeated. Your ego won't drive you to excel, but your love for wrestling will insist that you go to the sport's aid."

As the reporter left, Mr. Wrestling II stood in the doorway, looking like a man poised to be a hero. □

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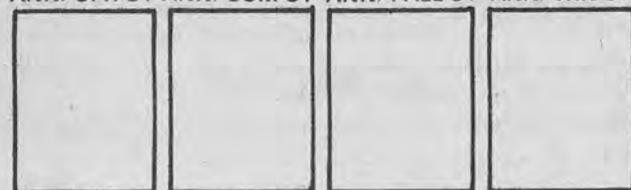


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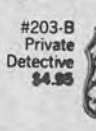
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SINCERELY YOURS

(Continued from Page 18)



Readers Betsy Adkins and Betty Blankenship are worried that if the Mulligans do not get enough credit from the promoters and press, they will leave the Mid-Atlantic area.

than Bob Backlund, Harley Race, and Nick Bockwinkel combined! But you choose to break the rules . . . why? You are wasting a chance to prove yourself to the WWF. Please listen and take my advice: turn yourself around, and you'll be the next world champion.

PAUL LARDIN JR.
Youngstown, OH

because they're overlooked like the Mulligans are being ignored right now. If the Mulligans leave because of this, a lot of fans, including us, are going to be very angry.

BETSY ADKINS
BETTY BLANKENSHIP
Richmond, VA

BLACK AND BLUE

Congratulations are in order to Bobby "The Brain" Heenan for combining the great talents of Olympic great Ken Patera and Big Bad Bobby Duncum. Known as the "Black and Blue Express," they are fast becoming serious threats to the AWA titleholders, Greg Gagne and Jim Brunzell.

CREDIT MULLIGANS, TOO

Guys like Rick Steamboat, Ric Flair, Jay Youngblood and the rest don't deserve any credit. Everybody is always giving the fame and glory to them when they don't need it—and don't even earn it.

It's the best ones, like the Mulligans, who are always overlooked. Promoters and magazines act and think that people don't care to hear about the Mulligans. We think they deserve as much credit as the rest, if not more. They have come a long way in wrestling. People wonder why the best wrestlers leave this area. It's

The combination of the strength of Duncum, the cunning shrewdness of Patera, and the brilliant mind of four-time AWA Manager of the Year Heenan make it simply ludicrous to think of these fine athletes in any position short of number one.

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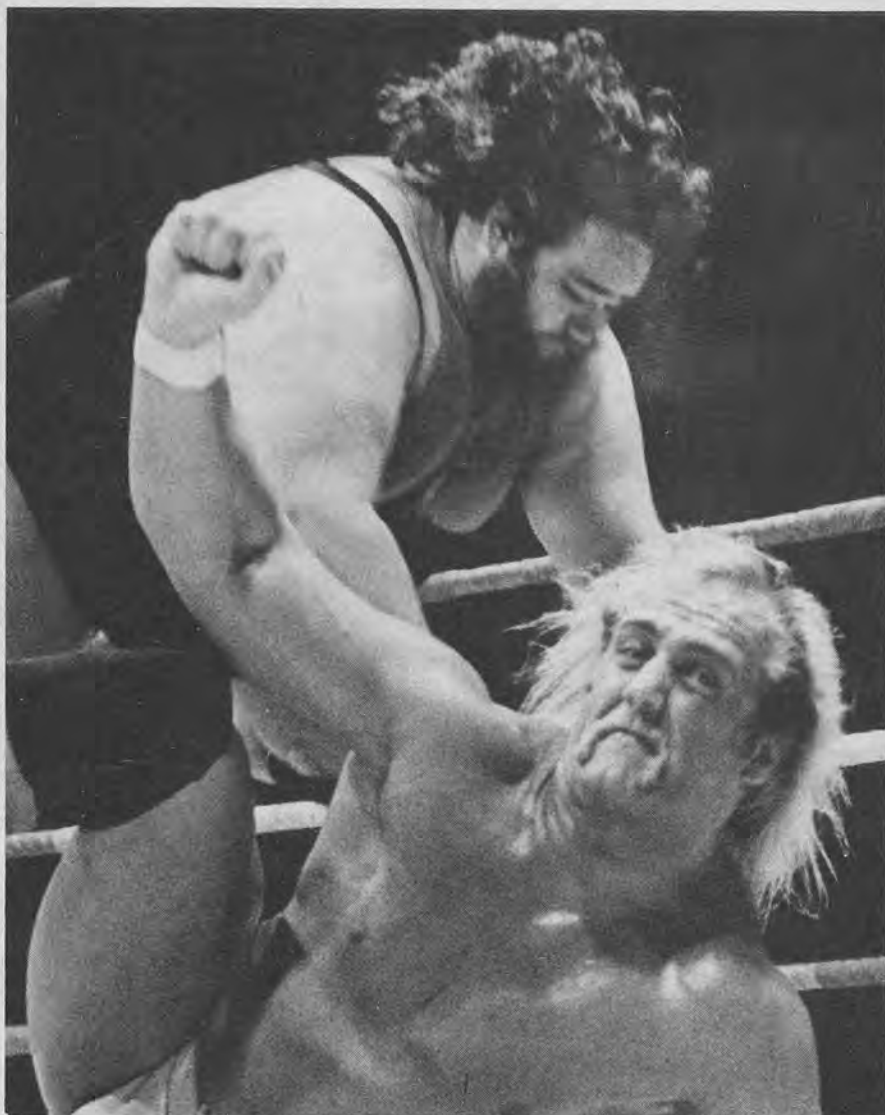
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THE \$1,000 BODYSLAM

(Continued from Page 43)



Hogan, with a decided edge in agility, rolls away from a diving Blackwell just in time. Hogan is beginning to peak as a wrestler and many experts are giving him a good chance to dethrone AWA champion Nick Bockwinkel.

\$1,000; he was struggling to survive. His desperation made him vulnerable.

Then it happened. Hogan's powerful arms positioned themselves perfectly. With the fluid ease of a striking python, Hogan lifted Blackwell into the air. At first, Blackwell didn't realize what was happening. It was only at the moment when he started crashing down that he understood his reputation and \$1,000 were gone. It was at that instant, when his face contorted into an expression of horror and recognition, that the image formed that everyone will remember.

It is splendid. Hogan's body is taut and curved; every muscle bulges with power. Blackwell's body is straight, as if he tensed at his moment of destruction. It's strange that no one seems to remember the expression on Hogan's face, perhaps because his body was more expressive than his face could ever be. Or perhaps it was because no one thought to isolate any part of Hogan's body; his entire presence was the expression.

After that, it was all anti-climax. Blackwell's crash to the canvas shook the entire arena. He lay on the canvas like a beached whale, a



Hogan prevents being bodyslammed by expertly shifting his weight toward Blackwell, forcing him off-balance.

monster helplessly surrendering to his alien environment.

Afterwards, reporters thronged to Hogan's dressing room. The gargantuan grappler, instead of celebrating, sat almost motionless in a chair. His victory complete, he was totally drained. He could barely answer questions in a voice above a whisper.

Perhaps the most astounding revelation of the evening was Hogan's comment. "It felt as if Blackwell was weightless. The only thing to which I can compare it is hitting a baseball perfectly. You know you hit the ball: everything feels perfect and the ball flies a country mile. When I lifted Blackwell, I knew I had him, my motion was perfect, and he was bodyslammed. Yet, for the life of me, I can't remember straining. When something is done perfectly, you barely feel it."

As might be expected, Blackwell refused to talk to reporters. Several days later, he again refused to meet the press when Hogan received a check for \$1,000. In a way, he was right. There was nothing more to say.

Hulk Hogan earned immortality in an instant. Wrestling fans all over the world will share in the memory of his remarkable accomplishment. His was a moment of physical genius that people will use as a measurement against other accomplishments.

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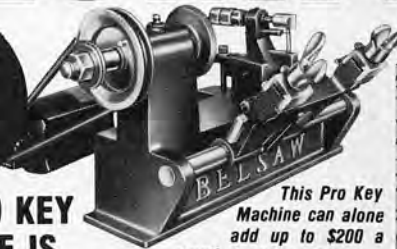


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